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Tudela, Sablan top SCS Science Fair 2021. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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LOCAL MATCH WAIVER OK'D

It's go time for $7.7M LWA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government can now start parceling out the $7.7 million that was approved for the CNMI's Lost Wages Assistance program after President Joe Biden approved the CNMI's request to waive the 25% matching fund requirement.

Sablan

Torres

In a social media post, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said that Biden issued a directive yesterday

See LWA on Page 4

'Tax lien subordinate to consent judgment'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Labor and the CNMI Department of Finance have come to an agreement that the consent judgement filed by the former against Imperial Pacific International Holdings, Ltd and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC will take precedence over the tax lien filed by the latter.

See TAX on Page 4

CPA, Star Marianas Air agree to resolve dispute

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority and the Star Marianas Air Inc. agreed yesterday during a meeting before the Senate to sit down and finally resolve their lease dispute, which first began in 2012 and continues to this day.

See CPA on Page 4

Mendiola: We gave them time

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The idea of being vaccinated was already on the table for all firefighters and other staff of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services since December 2020, according to DFEMS Commissioner Dennis Mendiola.

Mendiola

In an interview with Mendiola yesterday, he said DFEMS was one of the first agencies to have its person-

See MENDIOLA on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, March 23, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,784	2	7,786
Recovered	7,623	8	7,631
Active	19	2	21
Deaths	134	0	134
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			137,825

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	157	0	157
Traced via Travel Screening	121	0	121
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			7

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Saipan:	Tinian:	Rota:
Dose 1: 12,880	Dose 1: 820	Dose 1: 939
Dose 2: 9,676	Dose 2: 370	Dose 2: 511

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

COLLISSION AT QUARTERMASTER

A white sedan with a severely damaged bumper is seen being towed away at the Quartermaster Road intersection. At left, a black pickup truck can be seen also being towed away with a damaged rear. This photo was taken early afternoon yesterday, just moments after the car collision between the white sedan and black pickup truck occurred. It was reported that both drivers of the two vehicles were not injured. More details on the incident will follow.

NEIL FAMA

INSIDE

NATION
A shooting at a Colorado supermarket killed 10 people, and a suspect is now in custody.
PAGE 12

ASIA
A journalist from BBC's Burmese-language service was released by authorities in Myanmar.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
Joe Koy tells how he became a Netflix darling and having a movie deal in his new memoir.
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Local

CNMI MARKS 45TH COVENANT DAY TODAY

‘Covenant is our guide to rebuilding NMI economy’

By NEIL FAMA
neil_fama@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI marks today the 45th anniversary of the signing of the Covenant agreement that made the CNMI part of the American political family—an occasion that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios describes as an occasion to celebrate the creation of the Commonwealth and the progress it has made as a young democracy.

In a statement yesterday, Torres and Palacios said: “Forty-five years ago, a group of 14 beautiful islands in the Western Pacific successfully negotiated on equal terms with the most powerful country in the world in an act of self-determination.”

Torres

That negotiation led to the creation of the Covenant agreement and Torres and Palacios said it was the framework created by the Covenant through which constructive conversations were held with the federal government to promote the best interest of all CNMI residents. That includes the most recent 902 consultations in 2016 and 2019, which allowed the CNMI to develop its workforce, protect long-term foreign workers, rebuild homes and infrastructure, develop the CNMI economy, and fund the earned income tax credit.

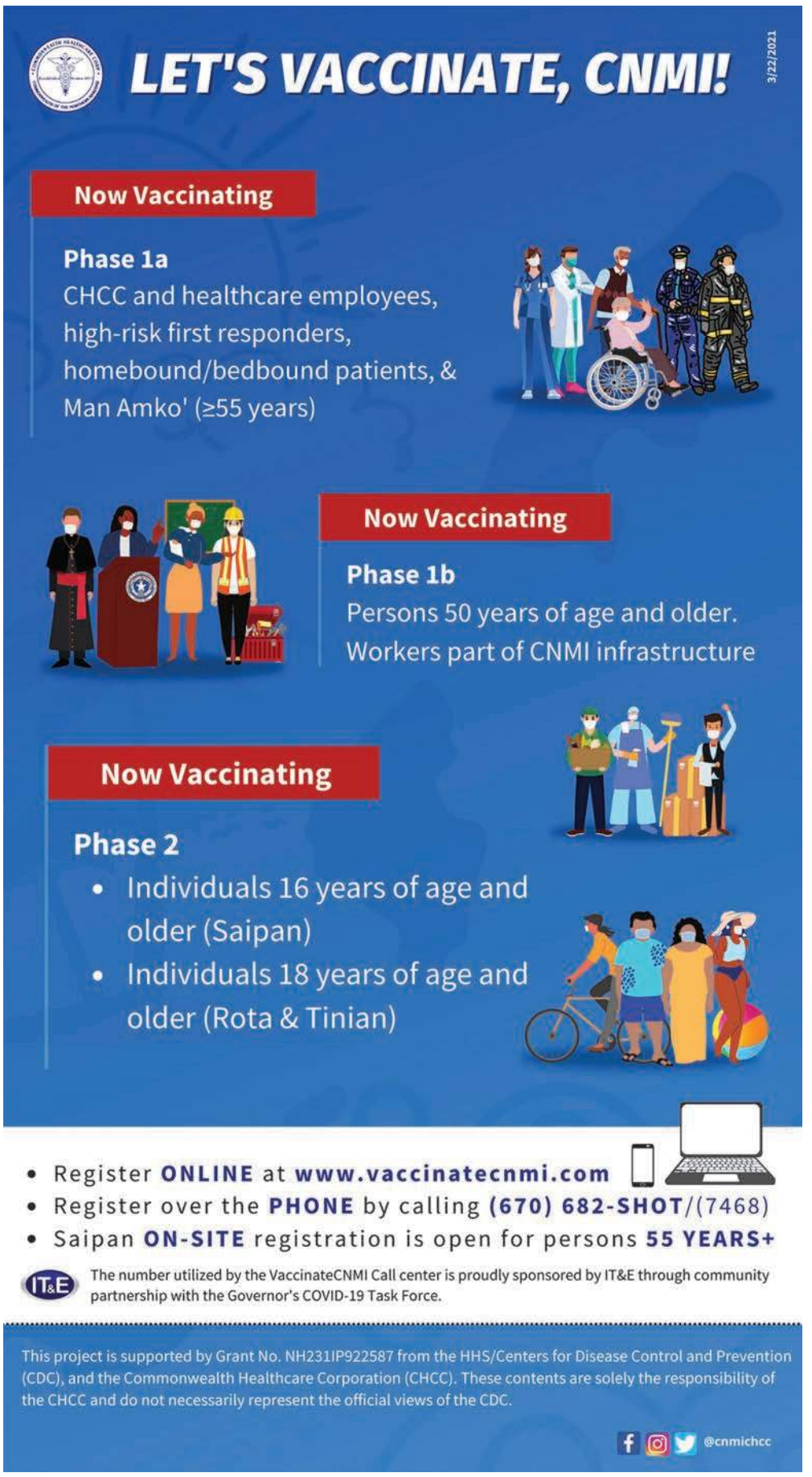
“The Covenant is a sacred agreement, an honorable accord, and the foundation of our government, and we will continue to use it as a guide in our work of overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic, rebuilding our economy, continuing our recovery, providing public safety in our villages, achieving our healthcare goals, expanding educational opportunities for our students, and ensuring economic prosperity for our Commonwealth,” said Torres and Palacios.

Separately, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said in a statement that the signing of the Covenant allowed the people of the Northern Marianas to become part of the American family.

“The Covenant paved the way for many residents in the Northern Marianas to become U.S. citizens and contributing members of its strong economy and political system. We honor our forefathers who worked meticulously to make our political relationship with the United States of America mutually beneficial for the people of the Northern Marianas and the U.S.,” he said.

The Covenant was negotiated over the course of 27 months—more than two years—from December 1972 to February 1975 by the Marianas Political Status Commission (an organization representing the Northern Marianas Islands) and a delegation representing the United States. The resulting document—the Covenant agreement—was signed by negotiators on Feb. 15, 1975, on Saipan and was subsequently signed by President Gerald Ford on March 24, 1976.

In celebration of today’s occasion, the American Memorial Park is holding a beach cleanup at Micro Beach from 8am to 10am this morning. COVID-19 social distancing directives will be followed during the cleanup.


LET'S VACCINATE, CNMI!
3/22/2021
Now Vaccinating
Phase 1a
CHCC and healthcare employees, high-risk first responders, homebound/bedbound patients, & Man Amko' (≥55 years)
Now Vaccinating
Phase 1b
Persons 50 years of age and older.
Workers part of CNMI infrastructure
Now Vaccinating
Phase 2
• Individuals 16 years of age and older (Saipan)
• Individuals 18 years of age and older (Rota & Tinian)
• Register ONLINE at www.vaccinatecnmi.com
• Register over the PHONE by calling (670) 682-SHOT/(7468)
• Saipan ON-SITE registration is open for persons 55 YEARS+
The number utilized by the VaccinateCNMI Call center is proudly sponsored by IT&E through community partnership with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.
This project is supported by Grant No. NH231IP922587 from the HHS/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). These contents are solely the responsibility of the CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.
@cnmichcc

HARBOR PROJECT U.S. NAVY/WENHAN FAN

Equipment Operator Constructionman Michael Gray, left, and Builder 2nd Class Peyton Dyer, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, compact base material to prepare the excavation for a mooring bollard concrete foundation in support of the Tinian harbor repair project, enhancing the Port of Tinian for future operations.

See more photos on Page 7

Making healthcare in the CNMI more inclusive

T-Project, an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, recently met with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to discuss some of the barriers in accessing healthcare among transgender individuals in the CNMI.

According to a statement from Tyra Sablan, founder and president of T-Project, their discussions focused on standard of care in transgender health. That includes LGBTQ+ data collection during intake process and other opportunities; developing inclusive environment best practices that complements a patient centric experience; hormone replacement therapy for transgender individuals; and the need for a mental health provider in gender identity, sexual orientation, and other behaviors.

The CHCC Family Care Clinic has always accepted transgender individuals for care and CHCC said it will continue to enhance such services. As part of that growth, the FCC is accepting transgender individuals seeking to receive hormone replacement therapy. Individuals are urged to first contact T-Project to receive an informational packet on hormone replacement therapy to get a better understanding of the process, expectations, and possible risks prior to making an appointment.

Transgender persons suffer significant health disparities and may require medical intervention as part of their care. Current research emphasizes sexual minorities’ self-report of barriers, rather than using direct methods. The biggest barrier to health care reported by transgender individuals is lack of access due to lack of providers who are sufficiently knowledgeable on the topic. Other barriers include: financial barriers, discrimination, lack of cultural competence by providers, health systems barriers, and socioeconomic barriers.

In addition to the usual care, transgender patients often require medical interventions such as hormone therapy and/or surgery. The biggest barrier both to safe hormonal therapy and to appropriate general medical care for transgender patients is the lack of access to care.

For more information about T-Project, visit: https://t-projectcnmi.org.

To set an appointment at CHCC FCC, call (670)234-8951. ***(PR)***

Tax filing deadline extended to May 17

The Department of Finance, Division of Revenue & Taxation would like to notify the public that the income tax filing due date for individuals for the 2020 tax year will be automatically extended from April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021.

Individual taxpayers can also postpone income tax payments for the 2020 tax year due on April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021, without penalties and interest, regardless of the amount owed. This postponement applies to individual taxpayers. Penalties, interest and additions to tax will begin to accrue on any remaining unpaid balances as of May 17, 2021. Individual taxpayers will automatically avoid interest and penalties on the taxes paid by May 17, 2021.

Individual taxpayers do not need to file any forms or call the Division of Revenue & Taxation to qualify for this automatic federal tax filing and payment relief. Individual taxpayers who need additional time to file beyond the May 17 deadline can request a filing extension until Oct. 15 by filing Form 4868. Filing Form 4868 gives taxpayers until Oct. 15 to file their 2020 tax return but does not grant an extension of time to pay taxes due. Taxpayers should pay their income tax due by May 17, 2021, to avoid interest and penalties.

This relief does not apply to estimated tax payments that are due on April 15, 2021. These payments are still due on April 15. Taxes must be paid as taxpayers earn or receive income during the year, either through withholding or estimated tax payments. In general, estimated tax payments are made quarterly to the DRT by people whose income isn't subject to income tax withholding, including self-employment income, interest, dividends, alimony, or rental income. Most taxpayers automatically have their taxes withheld from their paychecks and submitted to DRT by their employer.

The income tax filing deadline postponement to May 17, 2021, only applies to Chapter 7 Income tax and Chapter 2 Wage & Salary/Earnings tax filed along with the income tax return, and not other local tax payments or deposits. ***(PR)***

Stay Connected

Payment Notice

We want to keep you connected to everything that matters to you. To avoid any service interruptions to your residential, business, or government account, please make payment by **Wednesday, March 24, 2021.**

For your health and safety when visiting our store, please wear a mask and be mindful of the social distancing measures we have in place. If you prefer not to visit, you may make payment online at store.ite.net/onlinebilling or by calling Customer Care at 682-4ITE (4483).

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IT&E

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

JKPL closed today for Covenant Day

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed today, March 24, 2021, in observance of Commonwealth Covenant Day. Regular library hours will resume on Thursday, March 25, 2021. ***(PR)***

Navy trainings set

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will continue to conduct scheduled training in open ocean, Reserve Craft Beach, Warning Area 12, and Warning Area 517 until March 29 from midnight to 11:59pm to include the following coordinates: 13°75''N/144°33''E, 13°75''N/144°60''E, 13°50''N/144°60''E, 13°50''N/144°33''E.

Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy is conducting training in Radio Barrigada until March 25 from 9am to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition is being used for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy is conducting training in Agat Bay, Outer Apra Harbor, and Orote Point from 9am to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition is being used for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy is conducting training in Radio Barrigada and Dandan-Malojloj until March 25, from 9am to 11:55pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity due to the training.

The U.S. Navy is conducting live fire exercises in open ocean until March 25, from 9am to 11:55pm at the following coordinates: 13°26''N/145°08''E, 13°42''N/144°36''E. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy is conducting training in Outer Apra Harbor on March 25, from 9:30am to 2pm. The public is advised to be aware of this training event.

These trainings support readiness and are critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific. ***(PR)***

Contract awarded for fuel station in Guam

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific has awarded a $24.5 million firm-fixed-price task order under a multiple award construction contract to Hensel Phelps Construction Co., of Honolulu, Hawaii for the design and construction of a fuel station at Marine Corps Base, Joint Region Marianas-Andersen, Guam.

The work to be performed provides for the design and construction of a central fuel station to serve the Marine Corps base in Guam. The project will include fueling stations, a fuel storage facility, a fuel administration building, and a generator building.

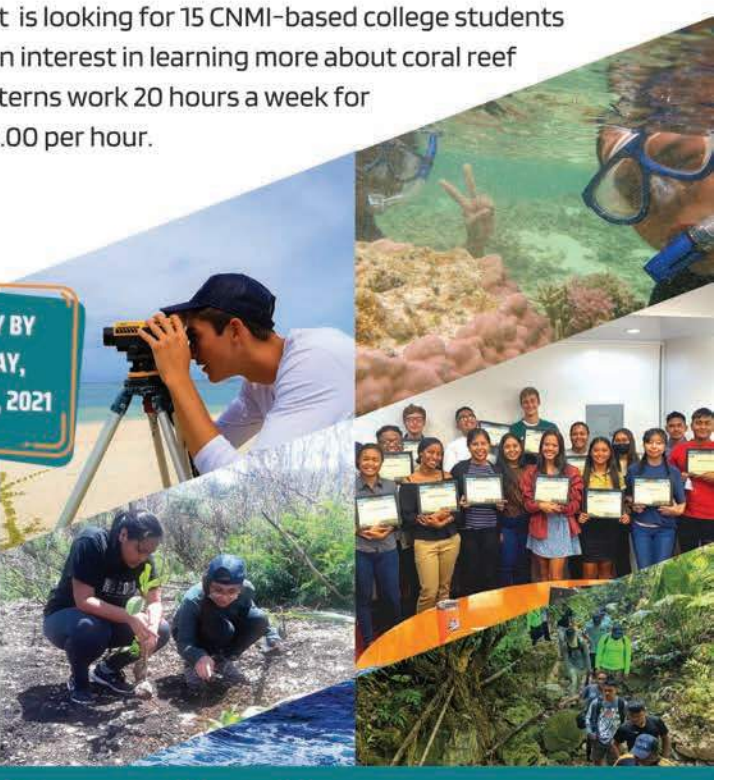
Work will be performed in Finegayan, Guam with an expected completion date of August 2023. ***(USN)***

The Division of Coastal Resources Management is looking for 15 CNMI-based college students or college-bound high school graduates with an interest in learning more about coral reef and coastal zone management. Our summer interns work 20 hours a week for 10 weeks from June to August and are paid $10.00 per hour.

To be considered, please submit the following documents by email to outreach@dcrm.gov.mp

CNMI EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION
Which can be found at www.cnmiopm.net
COVER LETTER
RESUME/CV
TRANSCRIPTS
Official or Unofficial
TWO (2) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
Instructors and/or Employers Only
POLICE CLEARANCE
Within the Last 3 Months
COPY OF VALID PHOTO ID
Driver's License, Passport, etc.

APPLY BY FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021



This summer's internship opportunities include:

MARINE MONITORING ◦ EDUCATION & OUTREACH
SHORELINE MONITORING ◦ SPECIAL AREA MANAGEMENT ◦ REGULATORY COMPLIANCE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ◦ WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

For more information, contact DCRM at 664-8300 or visit our website at WWW.DCRM.GOV.MP

SNILD hears nomination of Aquino to Municipal Council

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations met yesterday afternoon to discuss the nomination of Daniel I. Aquino to serve on the 16th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

SNILD JGO chair Sen. Edith De-leon Guerrero (D-Saipan) presided over the meeting.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the House's chamber, Aquino had just finished his testimony.

Aquino talked about, among other things, his many projects at the CNMI Museum where he serves as director since 2017.

Several persons testified to support Aquino's nomination.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang who nominated Aquino, and former governor Benigno R. Fitial, were among the many persons in the gallery. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

$8.6M grant to fund construction of 2 buildings at UOG

Plans to construct two new buildings on the University of Guam campus will move forward following an $8.6 million grant award that the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

The projects are a second building for the nursing program and a new home for UOG's Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific that will include the only comprehensive water testing lab in the Micronesian region.

The grant funds come from the Economic Adjustment Assistance Program, which received $600 million in 2019 to support disaster relief and recovery for areas affected by certain natural disasters, including Typhoon Mangkhut in 2018. A condition of the $8.6 million award requires the university to contribute $1.7 million—for a total project cost of $10.3 million. The local contribution is comprised of UOG Endowment Foundation and UOG funds.

"The damage caused by Typhoon Mangkhut in 2018 underscored the need for Guam to develop new capacity to protect its aquifer and to address a chronic shortage of health care workers," said Dennis Alvord, acting assistant secretary of commerce for economic development. "This EDA investment will provide the University of Guam the additional infrastructure it needs to support the territory's economic growth and resilience to future disasters through research and training."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CPA

From Page 1

With both parties appearing before Tinian and Rota senators yesterday, Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) was able to wring a commitment from both SMA president Bob Christian and CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds to sit down and try to resolve their differences.

Hocog said their main concern is the provision of essential air service on Rota and Tinian. "Because if there's no airplane, what's going to happen? We're [going to] swim from Rota to Saipan?" Hocog asked.

Hocog said he called for the meeting to help resolve the problem after Christian told him about the dispute and that he can "turn off the engine and not move it."

That dispute between CPA and SMA began in 2012 when CPA tried to collect on $2.6 million that it says SMA owes CPA in unpaid passenger facility charges. SMA, on the other hand, alleges that CPA imposes excessive charges that are not based on fair market value, CPA's operational costs, or the weight of SMA's aircraft.

Aside from King-Hinds and Christian, others at the Senate meeting were CPA legal counsel Robert T. Torres and SMA counsel Mark Scoggins. On the Senate side were Hocog, Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Sens. Francisco Dela Cruz (R-Tinian) and Karl King Nabors (R-Tinian).

Scoggins said they are ready to sit down with CPA to resolve their dispute whenever CPA is ready.

"We're ready to start the process whenever CPA is ready," Scoggins said. Torres readily answered they are.

Hocog then asked Christian is he is willing to sit down with CPA, to which Christian replied they always have been.

Hocog then asked King-Hinds if she is willing to sit down with SMA. King-Hinds said she stated it already three or five times in a span of 10 minutes.

"So we are good. That's all," Hocog said.

According to Torres in his report to the Senate, SMA and CPA executed an Airline Use Agreement and Use of Premises in 2009. The agreement provides the parties' obligations to multiple areas throughout the airport and addresses how the lease is paid.

Torres said unlike a typical lease agreement that requires a tenant to pay an annual or monthly rent, CPA requires its airlines tenants to pay charges and fees based off of CPA's cost of the facility or service provided to and used by the airline.

Because air carriers pay charges based off CPA's cost of the facility, Torres said, it is unknown what those costs actually are until they are accrued.

The agreement addresses this issue by first requiring air carriers to pay an approximated rate based off of CPA's proposed annual budget.

SMA has also accused CPA of violating the Anti Head Tax Act by charging head taxes on passengers traveling through its airports.

SMA complaints, among other issues, include CPA's alleged economic discrimination by failing to provide an analysis of its landing fee charges between fiscal years 2009 to 2014.

Torres said Federal Aviation Administration has determined that it is satisfied that CPA is in compliance and that its current rates and methodology is transparent and reasonable.

Torres said U.S. District Court for the NMI and the FAA have repeatedly dismissed SMA's "unfounded complaints."

In December 2020, SMA sued CPA in the Superior Court, alleging breach of contract. CPA filed a motion to dismiss and the matter is set to be heard in April 2021.

At the Senate meeting, Christian said CPA recognizes that SMA continues to deliver a good level of service.

"We're here, we've made a commitment to the community," he said.

Christian said what he is asking is that their contract with CPA to be followed. "What we're not happy with is a number of violations that we believe are blatant in that contract," he said.

Christian said that, among other issues, the ports' security issues haven't been updated since 1992. "We'd like to help you with those. But in order to help with those, we've got to really change the attitude between the way the port treats us as a tenant and our ideas and their role and responsibility as a government entity. We've got to rid of the hostilities," Christian said.

Torres said CPA's position is Star Marianas owes $2.6 million in fees.

"We have fundamental disagreements but those fees is $2.6 million that we assert are due," Torres said.

Torres pointed out that this dispute has been on the books for several years and that CPA is committed to good faith resolution.

Christian said CPA mentioned $2.6 million, but they can't even produce one billing statement that shows it. "Let's get a third party," he said.

Torres said if SMA wants the Senate to have an oversight that's their prerogative. "I don't think what the Senate is looking for is to oversight everyone. What the Senate is looking for is a resolution," he said.

Torres said what they represent to SMA is that they are absolutely committed to resolution, with each one of the tenants in every way.

King-Hinds said sitting before the senators and basically Christian rehashing his view "is not trying to win hearts and minds here." "It's supposed to be 'meet me halfway,' you meet me halfway. But it seems that's not what's happening. There are steps and your attorney knows what the steps are," King-Hinds said.

MENDIOLA

From Page 1

nel vaccinated when the vaccines came in December 2020. At the time, Mendiola said, he didn't mandate the firefighters to get the vaccine, until Gov. Ralph DLG Torres issued the directive last week that made the vaccination mandatory.

Mendiola said he has received both doses of the vaccine and, after his inoculation, he had high hopes that his staff would avail of it too.

"I spoke to these guys a few times and…kind of tried to inspire them to get the vaccine. I took the vaccine to actually [foster] trust in them," said Mendiola.

He said that DFEMS firefighters initially had until the end of March to get vaccinated, but he issued another directive that they had until last Thursday to get vaccinated. With that timeline, that's when the 23 firefighters wrote a letter of concern saying that they refuse to get vaccinated, Mendiola said.

In response to the petition, Mendiola said that the firefighters are free to do what they want. "I really can't speak much on what's their train of thought…but for me, I think the community is actually pushing us as first responders to get vaccinated. I'm getting more feedback that we should be vaccinated first so that we don't put the families that we respond to at risk," said Mendiola.

When asked if the non-vaccinated firefighters could go be reassigned to an office setting to avoid contact with other people, Mendiola said this would hold back their operations since there are only 124 staff at DFEMS, including firefighters and administrative personnel.

"It hampers the department's capability right now. We're short on manpower because we're already covering down at Kanoa Resort, covering down at Marianas Resort, and we still have to do our day-to-day operation here [at DFEMS]," said Mendiola.

As of yesterday, DFEMS has yet to institute any disciplinary action, Mendiola said; he did not elaborate.

TAX

From Page 1

In a stipulation submitted to the U.S. District Court for the NMI, the two parties came to an agreement—without going through a formal process of adjudication—that the CNMI Department of Finance's tax lien against IPI and IPIH will be subordinate to the consent decree claim of USDOL.

Prompted by the stipulation, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued an order yesterday reflecting this, saying that the CNMI's claims and liens against IPI, IPIH, and IPIH chair Cui Li Jie are subordinated to the USDOL secretary's claim against them in the amount of $1.5 million.

"This amount of the [U.S. Labor] secretary's claim will be prior to and superior to the Commonwealth's claims and liens," said Manglona.

Last March 23, the court ruled in favor of USDOL over Finance, through Richard Santos, Revenue and Taxation Collection & Remittance Branch manager, who filed the tax lien against IPI in federal court last August 2020 for allegedly failing to pay $9,416,887 in Business Gross Revenue Tax for the tax period in 2017 to 2019.

"There is a lien in favor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on all property and rights to property belonging to the taxpayer for the amount of these taxes and any additional penalties, interest, and costs that may accrue," said Santos last August 2020.

As of press time, there was no official court document if the appointed receiver, Joyce Tang, has taken action against IPI or if the receivership has been extended again.

IPI has funds for payroll

In its 10th status report last March 22, IPI said it has sufficient funds to cover the payroll for this Friday.

Additionally, IPI's employee housing still has power and food services continue without interruption for all H-2B workers.

IPI said there are no new repatriations and construction work at Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan remains suspended.

LWA

From Page 1

waiving the non-federal cost share for the CNMI's LWA.

"Thank you, President Biden, for approving this waiver so our people would be able to receive the LWA grants," the delegate said.

Separately, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he got a call from the Washington, D.C. office of the Federal Emergency Management Office yesterday morning confirming that the CNMI's request for 100% waiver has been approved.

Torres said his administration looks forward to distributing LWA money as soon as possible.

"And I want to thank President Biden for the approval," the governor said.

Torres also thanked FEMA Region IX administrator Bob Fenton for always assisting on the CNMI's needs and requests.

LWA Program grants come from FEMA and the intended beneficiaries are workers who have been unemployed or are working reduced hours due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19.

The CNMI was approved for $7.7 million last Sept. 16, 2020, for this purpose but it came with a 25% cost share requirement. That means the federal government will provide 75% of the program funding, while the CNMI will put up the remaining 25%.

Early this month, Patrick Guerrero, the governor's authorized representative, told the House's Committee on Health and Welfare that he would make a final push to get an answer from FEMA on the CNMI's request for a waiver on the 25% matching fund requirement.

"If we don't pay out anything by March 27 [2021], we forfeit this amount," Guerrero said.

Committee chair Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) urged Guerrero at the meeting to follow up with Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig because Atalig appears to be under the impression that an $8-million match is required and not only over $2 million.

Tudela, Sablan top SCS Science Fair 2021

SCS SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

4th Grade
1st Place: Elijah Pangelinan
2nd Place: Vivan Chung
3rd Place: Farani Tonnu

5th Grade
1st Place: Annabella Tudela
2nd Place: Jose Sablan
3rd Place: Landon Springer

6th Grade
1st Place: Jennifer Kim
2nd Place: Joshua Yoo
3rd Place: Hannah Chae

7th Grade
1st Place: Nicolas Kim
2nd Place: Abbie Kim
3rd Place: Hilah Bacani

8th Grade
1st Place: Matthew Haynes
2nd Place: Soledad Sablan
3rd Place: Mikaela Rabago

Overall Elementary:
1st Place: Annabella Tudela (5th Grade)
2nd Place: Vivian Chung (4th Grade)
3rd Place: Jose Sablan (5th Grade)

Overall Jr. High:
1st Place: Soledad Sablan (8th Grade)
2nd Place: Jennifer Kim (6th Grade)
3rd Place: Joshua Yoo (6th Grade)

With detailed planning and creative solutions aligned with COVID-19 mitigation procedures, Saipan Community School successfully hosted its annual Science Fair last month, with Annabella Tudela and Soledad Sablan leading the fair's roster of winners.

Tudela in 5th grade was awarded overall Elementary winner, with her project "Blood Compatibility," while Sablan in 8th grade was awarded Overall Jr. High winner for her research and presentation called "This Little Light of Mine," which was an exploration of light and conductivity.

SCS had a total of 66 individual learning projects from 4th through 8th grade displayed at the fair. Projects from each grade level were separated out on campus and rated by judges from the local science community. Students were rated on Experimental Design Process, Data Collection & Conclusions as well as Visuals and Presentation. Then a second round of judging aimed to highlight the scientific thought and thinking process, creative ability, understanding and creative problem-solving skills, clarity and organization of the top projects from the previous round.

According to a school statement, the science fair was a culmination of all the hard work by students under the instruction of their teachers.

Annabella Tudela in 5th grade was awarded overall Elementary winner, with her project "Blood Compatibility."
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Soledad Sablan in 8th grade was awarded Overall Jr. High winner for her research and presentation called "This Little Light of Mine," which was an exploration of light and conductivity.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The fair culminated with a live virtual award ceremony on the school's Facebook page and shared on the school's learning platforms. Parents, students, and staff members were invited to view the projects on campus, which were displayed in a socially distant manner, and recognized the students' accomplishments and hard work.

Notably, the school's kindergarten through 3rd grade classes completed class projects together. The kindergartners researched "Fun with Magnets," the 1st Grade class successfully grew plants from their own compost with "From Garbage to Garden," the 2nd Grade studied liquid solutions and experimented with "Bubble it!" and the 3rd grade researched "Which Cup Keeps Drinks Colder."

"SCS would like to thank the parents and guardians for all their help and support throughout this project, and to our volunteers who served as judges. We greatly appreciate the judges that came from our local science community," the SCS statement added. ***(PR)***

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Julian Aguon's book launch televised on March 29

The latest book of Guam author Julian Aguon, a memoir titled *The Properties of Perpetual Light*, will be released at 7pm on Monday, March 29, with a televised launch on Channel 12.

The launch will be hosted by the book's publisher, the University of Guam Press, in partnership with PBS Guam and the Bank of Guam with support from the Graphic Center. The event will also be streamed on PBS Guam's YouTube channel and rebroadcasted at 7pm on Sunday, April 4.

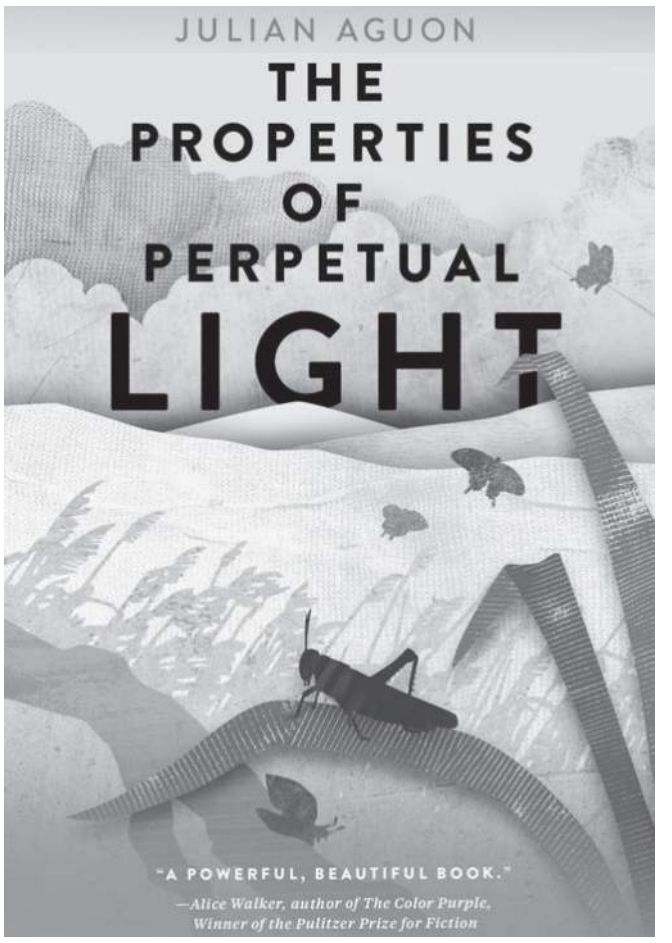
During the launch, Aguon will read excerpts from the book and respond to questions from University of Guam students, who have read an advanced copy of the book.

UOG Press will also host a socially distanced book signing, where books may be purchased and signed by Aguon from 1pm to 4pm on Saturday, April 3, in the atrium of the University of Guam's Humanities and Social Sciences building. The event will feature a live musical performance by Microchild. Masks are required and the community is encouraged to bring an umbrella as social distancing may push the line outside the building.

The Properties of Perpetual Light is an homage to Aguon's work as an activist-writer, which he describes as "the work of bearing witness, wrestling with the questions of one's day, telling children the truth." Featuring prose and poetry, Aguon's memoir weaves together stories from his childhood in the villages of Guam with searing political commentary about everything from nuclear weapons to climate change.

> "A breathtaking book and I mean it—this book took my breath away. *The Properties of Perpetual Light* is so alive with passion, wisdom, and heart, you can almost feel its pulse. A call not only for justice, but for a brand-new covenant with our world."
> —*Junot Díaz, author of* The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction*

> "A powerful, beautiful book. Its fierce love—of the land, the ocean, the elders, and the ancestors—warms the heart and moves the spirit."
> —*Alice Walker, author of* The Color Purple*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction*


JULIAN AGUON
THE PROPERTIES OF PERPETUAL LIGHT
"A POWERFUL, BEAUTIFUL BOOK."
—Alice Walker, author of The Color Purple, Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

The latest book of Guam author Julian Aguon, a memoir titled *The Properties of Perpetual Light*, will be released at 7pm on Monday, March 29, with a televised launch on Channel 12. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aguon

The book has received acclaim from notable authors and Pulitzer Prize novelists including Junot Díaz and Alice Walker. Naomi Klein, author of *The Shock Doctrine* and *This Changes Everything*," wrote, "Overflowing with warmth and wisdom and defying all categorization, *The Properties of Perpetual Light* is philosophy, poetry, memoir, history, and self-help for humanity. With bottomless love for his people and place, Aguon guides us through a portal to the Pacific, sharing deep insights earned from life on the existential knife's edge."

The Properties of Perpetual Light is now available for preorder at uog.edu/uogpress, the UOG Triton Bookstore, itascabooks.com, JulianAguon.com, and Amazon.com. This title is sold for $23 and will be available for purchase at the University of Guam Press and local and international bookstores starting March 29. ***(PR)***

UOG Center for Island Sustainability chief testifies on climate action bill in Congress

Guam was represented before U.S. Congress last March 5 when Austin Shelton, director of the University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant provided testimony in support of the Insular Area Climate Change Act in a virtual hearing.

The Insular Area Climate Change Act was introduced by Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva, a Democrat from Arizona serving as chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources. It aims to reduce climate crisis impacts on U.S. territories and freely associated states by creating greater access to federal climate change-related programs and by creating multiple grant programs through which insular areas could invest in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure.

Shelton

ON THE NET

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsGCFtEiWkM

The act would also raise the non-federal cost share, or match, waiver to $750,000 for territories, which would increase the ability of islands to leverage funding to implement climate action projects.

Shelton was invited by the committee to provide testimony for Guam alongside representatives from the Marshall Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. He is a marine and environmental scientist who oversees a portfolio of programs related to reviving island ecosystems through the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and UOG Sea Grant. The Center for Island Sustainability, in partnership with the Office of the Governor of Guam, is also leading the facilitation of the Guam Green Growth initiative, the island's most comprehensive public-private partnership to date toward achieving a sustainable future.

"Climate change impacts are disproportionate. Islands contribute the least to the causes of climate change, yet we experience the brunt of its impacts in the form of frequent and severe storm events, droughts, flooding, and coral bleaching," Shelton said in his testimony.

Shelton commended the legislation's provision of millions of dollars of federal funding to insular areas related to climate change and coral reefs, rebates for energy-efficient products, and sustainable infrastructure and renewable energy expansion.

"In addition to climate change planning and research, islands urgently need assistance with the build-out of infrastructure to make a swift transition into the new green industrial revolution," Shelton said. "The proposed provisions for renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure grants will support new green jobs, increase climate resilience, and lower fossil-fuel emissions."

Shelton highlighted how Guam is ready to implement the new climate change programs if the legislation is enacted, as it recently took the following steps toward achieving a sustainable future:

- mandated 100% renewable energy production by 2045;
- established the Guam Green Growth initiative, a public-private partnership that aims to advance the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
- adopted the Guam Coral Reef Resilience Strategy; and
- formed the Guam Climate Change Resiliency Commission.

Shelton also pointed out in his testimony that, counterintuitive to the perception of islands being helpless in the face of climate change, they are leading the way.

"Islands are victims and we're suffering, but we also have lots of knowledge and innovations to share as bright spots for the nation in the fight against climate change," he said. "Under the weight of climate change impacts – biodiversity loss, debilitating storms, and swallowing seas – islands are not sinking. Strong and resilient, islands are rising."

The complete hearing is available to view on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsGCFtEiWkM. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Early Childhood Program

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its **2nd Quarter Meeting on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 from 9:00am to 11:00am at the Board of Education Conference Room, Capital Hill**, Saipan and via videoconferencing. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters**
Roll Call
Presence of a Quorum
Adoption of Agenda
Adoption of Minutes
- November 25, 2019

II. **Election of Officers**
III. **SSIP Phase III Year 5**
IV. **Miscellaneous**
V. **Adjournment**

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029/3012. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/S/ **Christina Atalig**
Vice-Chairperson

/S/ **Donna Flores**
Director, Special Education Program

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NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 *et seq.*, as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its regular board meeting, to be held on March 25th, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes from February 18th, 2021

II. Public Comment (s)
III. Committee Reports
a. Committee on Awards
b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
d. Committee on Program and Development
e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
IV. Administrator's Report
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Old Business
1. Board vacancy/reappointment
VII. New Business
1. Spring 2021 application status
VIII. Executive Session
IX. Miscellaneous Matters
X. Next Meeting
XI. Adjournment

/s/ Francisco D. Cabrera, Interim Chairman, Board of SHEFA Directors

Seabees on Tinian

Utilitiesman 3rd Class Jermainejoy Samson, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, drills entry ports for grounding wires and other electrical components to be installed on a berthing SWAHUT in Camp Tinian. The camp will support future Naval Construction Force and U.S. Marine Corps operations on Tinian.
U.S. NAVY/CM2 WENHAN FAN

Builder 3rd Class Alex Wingert, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, fabricates concrete framework in preparation for mooring bollard placements in support of the Tinian Harbor repair project. The repair project will enhance the Port of Tinian for future operations.
U.S. NAVY/CM2 WENHAN FAN

Builder 3rd Class Alex Wingert, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, fabricates concrete framework in preparation for mooring bollard placements in support of the Tinian Harbor repair project. The repair project will enhance the Port of Tinian for future operations.
U.S. NAVY/CM2 WENHAN FAN

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, install formwork alongside rebar in preparation for the mooring bollard concrete placement at the Tinian Harbor.
U.S. NAVY/CM2 WENHAN FAN

U.S. NAVY/CM2 WENHAN FAN

Equipment Operator 3rd Class David Montenegro, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, operates a D6K preforming earthmoving operations to level an area to support equipment storage in Camp Tinian. The camp will support future Naval Construction Force and U.S. Marine Corps operations on Tinian.

U.S. NAVY/CM2 WENHAN FAN

Builder Constructionman Alexander Brienen, left, and Builder Constructionman Hannah Dodge, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, utilize a vibratory sled to smooth and compact the surface of the mooring bollard excavation prior to rebar placement at the Tinian Harbor.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 028

Opening Date: March 15, 2021 • Closing Date: March 26, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Technician-Operator**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,826.00 to $28,115.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Two (2)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power General.

Duties:

- Responsible for the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks.
- Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities.
- Responsible for monitoring all Plant systems as assigned.
- Will act as the responsible person when working without supervision. Responsible for entire plant during operating periods.
- May direct and/or instruct all other personnel as required during all other periods.
- May be on call for emergency response.
- Operates, controls, monitors and inspects generators, switchgears, motor controls, transformers, protection relays, circuit breakers, compressors, RO system and other associated equipment.
- Performs analysis, maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs of 8 megawatt, 13 megawatt Mitsubishi-MAN diesel engines to include engine auxiliary equipment in the main Power Plant and provide the same services on the small Power Plant with 2.5 megawatt Electromotive Division (EMD) units.
- Ensures work is within Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM) engineering specifications and quality levels.
- Takes readings from meters, gauges and computers at established intervals, reads and interprets data to take corrective steps as necessary.
- Inspects records and log book entries, and communicates with other plant personnel in order to assess equipment-operating status.
- Performs systems operations to regulate and coordinate transmission load, frequencies and line voltages.
- Identifies potential issues and operational concerns; performs operational inspections and symptomatic maintenance; provides status reports; evaluates and implements solutions and corrective actions under emergency situations.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Considerable knowledge in operation, repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant operations and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing operator duties.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Mechanical and electrical principles, practices and operations of power plant equipment. Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Performing inspections and analyzing system and equipment data; Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standard operating procedures; Monitoring plant equipment and making adjustments; Identifying electrical and mechanical issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Initiating requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work; exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities.

Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends, holidays and on-call.
Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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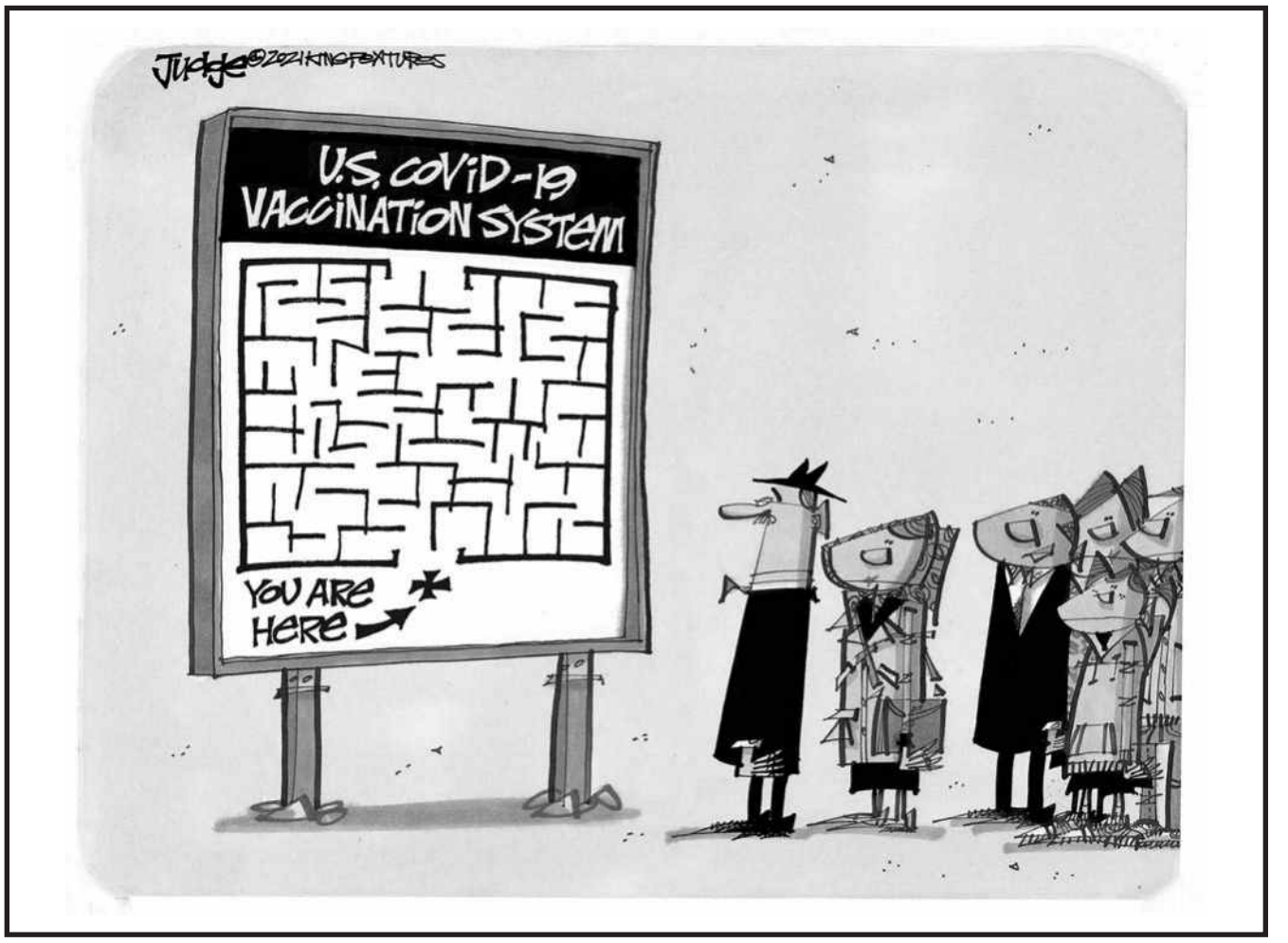
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

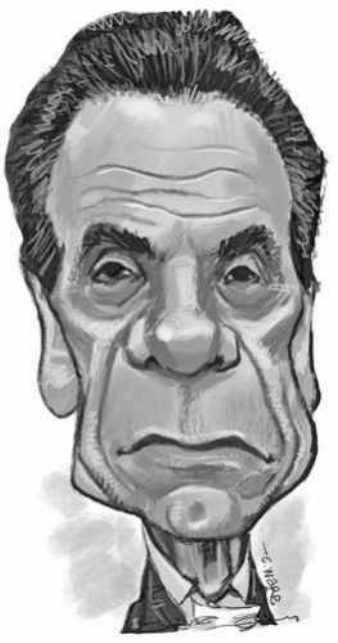


EDITORIAL

Rocks and glass houses: The different degrees of disapproval

In practice, the standard for when elected officials insist that a governing colleague must resign following accusations of misconduct, before an independent investigation or an impeachment proceeding has been conducted, is reminiscent of Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart's famous 1964 definition of what constitutes hard-core pornography: "I know it when I see it."

There simply aren't set-in-stone moral codes delineating what behavior is so egregious, that even when unproved, that it warrants a politician's immediate, voluntary departure from public office. That vagueness often leads to logical and moral inconsistencies. And political expediency.



Is a single criminal complaint of choking your wife during a fight qualitatively less bad than the multiple accusations of sexual harassment and unwanted physical contact New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is now facing? Hard to say.

But if it is, that would explain the relative silence from state lawmakers about Bronx state Sen. Luis Sepulveda, who was arrested on Jan. 12 on charges he choked his wife during a domestic dispute. Sepulveda claimed his wife also physically attacked him and firmly denied the charges, and his attorney says the wife's complaint was "a calculated attempt by a disgruntled party to leverage a divorce settlement."

Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins properly and immediately stripped Sepulveda of his committee chairmanship, which just happened to be the Crime Victims, Crime and Correction panel, saying "I take these allegations extremely seriously and will be monitoring this situation closely." But not seriously enough for her nor anyone else to demand that Sepúlveda immediately resign. And there have been no moves to expel him. But Stewart-Cousins says that Cuomo must go.

Meanwhile, GOP Rep. Tom Reed from western New York is now being accused by a former lobbyist of drunkenly groping her and unhooking her bra at a bar during a 2017 outing after a day of ice-fishing. Reed has for weeks been among the lawmakers of both parties calling loudly for Cuomo to resign or face impeachment for his various alleged misdeeds.

Will fellow Republicans like Reps. Nicole Malliotakis, who started a petition calling upon Cuomo to immediately

See ROCKS on Next Page

The renewal of the Violence Against Women Act should be a no-brainer. But it's not

March is supposed to be a good month for women.

It's Women's History Month, after all, a time to celebrate the oft-forgotten achievements of women and to remind ourselves that we've come a long way, baby, but we've got a lot further to go.

The March 16 killing in Atlanta of seven women and one man, including six women of Asian descent, painfully reminds us of the vulnerability of women to misplaced, irrational male anger. A young white man has been charged with their murders.

It is one more horrific reminder of the racist scapegoating of Asian Americans during this pandemic year, and of the relentless objectification of Asian women. It also reminds us, as if we need the help, that easy access to guns, and their glorification, is an American crisis.

In an unintended stroke of irony, one day after the tragedy in Atlanta, the House voted to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, which then-Sen. Joe Biden originally introduced in Congress. When it became law in 1994, the act was a landmark piece of legislation.

It allocated $1.6 billion for investigating and prosecuting violent crimes against women and created a rape shield law that prevented prosecutors from tarnishing female victims by introducing their sexual histories in court. The Office of Violence Against Women was established in the Department of Justice to implement it. The act also provided funding for battered women's shelters and for programs aimed at preventing domestic violence.

The Violence Against Women Act lapsed in 2018, but amid alarming reports about a rise in domestic violence during pandemic lockdowns, lawmakers were persuaded of the urgent need to reinstate it.

The House approved reauthorization of the act with a bipartisan 244-172 vote. It expands some of the original act's protections and creates some new ones. The language, by the way, is gender neutral, as intimate-partner violence is obviously not limited to heterosexual relationships. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner violence and/or stalking.

The act improves services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and provides new protections for young victims of violence, including adding funds to improve screening for intimate partner violence. It ensures that violence survivors can remain housed in the event of a breakup with a spouse and creates protections for Native American women through tribal registries for sex offenders and those who have been ordered to stay away from victims.

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

Robin Abcarian is an opinion columnist at the Los Angeles Times.

At this point, you might be wondering, why did 172 Republican House members vote against it?

(Twenty-nine Republicans supported it.)

Would it surprise you to know their opposition probably has something to do with limits on gun ownership?

The new version of the Violence Against Women Act contains language that would close a quirk of the law known as "the boyfriend loophole."

Currently, federal law prohibits those convicted of domestic violence from possessing or buying firearms. But it does not apply to perpetrators who have abused current or former dating partners with whom they do not share a child, or with whom they have never lived, thus the name "boyfriend loophole."

And yet about half of all intimate partner homicides are committed by current or former dating partners.

Closing this loophole doesn't just makes sense. It's imperative. States that prevent abusive dating partners from owning guns have 16% fewer intimate partner gun homicides, according to the American Journal of Epidemiology.

However, if you are a gun nut—and by nut, I mean you elevate the right to own firearms above all meaningful violence prevention measures—you would, understandably, oppose this move.

"If you want to protect women, make sure women are gun owners and know how to defend themselves. That's the greatest defense for women," said Georgia Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, the freshman representative who has distinguished herself by her allegiance to both right-wing conspiracy theories and former President Donald Trump, whose professed affection for the Second Amendment may have been eclipsed only by his love for himself.

Some states, including California, have already closed the boyfriend loophole.

"In California, we define domestic violence to include dating

See RENEWAL on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How Asian women are relentlessly objectified in American culture

By MAY-LEE CHAI
Los Angeles Times

May-lee Chai, an associate professor of creative writing at San Francisco State University, is the author most recently of Useful Phrases for Immigrants.

The police knocked on my door as I stood in my underwear, before my closet, trying to pick out a well-coordinated outfit for the day. The men in my department often dressed casually, some even came to work in shorts, but as a woman of color in a predominantly white university, I knew I'd be judged by different standards.

The knocking continued, loud and insistent.

I threw on my pants and a shirt and rushed to the door. I saw two uniformed officers through the peephole: a white woman and a Black man.

I cautiously opened the door.

"Good morning, ma'am," the woman said. "We received a call that there was shouting coming from inside your apartment. Are you all right?"

"Yes, I'm fine. Hmm, that's weird," I said. "I'm the only person here and I haven't heard any shouting."

"May I come in and look around?" the woman asked.

"What for?"

"I want to make sure that you are not being held against your will. The caller said they heard voices shouting and they thought a woman was in danger. I want to make sure you're not being trafficked."

Startled, I had no idea how to respond. Part of my brain said: Don't ever let cops in your home unless they have a warrant. They could plant drugs, something, charge you with a crime. On the other hand, I didn't want any trouble with the police. If I put up a fuss now, would they brand me a troublemaker and harass me in the future?

I let the officers inside. The woman looked through my apartment quickly—it was small and mostly empty. I had recently moved to North Carolina for a tenure-track teaching position and I was still unpacking. There was a foot-high stack of flattened cardboard boxes on the floor.

The woman returned and said, "There's no one." She turned to me, "Thank you."

And the cops left.

I wondered if they went around to the other apartments, asking if the inhabitants were trafficked or in distress. All the people I saw in the complex were white, and I was the sole Asian American. A few weeks after I'd arrived, a white woman had followed me across the grounds. She managed to catch up to me at the "clubhouse" where the apartment management company had their offices.

"Konichiwa! I did my missionary work in Japan," she said. "I'd love to practice Japanese with you sometime."

"I'm Chinese, not Japanese," I said, which I knew was really more information than she deserved but it just came out of my mouth.

Had some of my neighbors seen me walking on the grounds and assumed I was a "trafficked" woman, a sex worker, because I am Asian?

The fact that Asian women are punished for the ways white supremacy hypersexualizes our bodies is not unfamiliar to me. I was 13 or 14 years old when white veterans first started coming up to me to tell me stories of the sex workers in Asia. When I complained to my mother, who was white, she would get angry at me, for complaining. "Oh, they like you!" she said. When I shared this story with other white women in college, they reacted with envy, "It's not fair! They think you're exotic."

The most recent example of this objectification of Asian women's bodies came after six Asian women were shot and killed March 16 in Georgia. A captain in the sheriff's department in Cherokee County said of the white gunman at a news conference Wednesday: "Yesterday was a really bad day for him and this is what he did." Press reports have said that the suspect, Robert Aaron Long, claimed he had a "sex addiction," as if that would excuse murdering Asian women.

After the police came to my apartment that morning, I went to work as scheduled. Although I knew Asian American history and I knew that racism against me is not my fault, I could not escape the lingering psychological effects of having been racially profiled.

Between my classes and student meetings, I kept running to the women's restroom to check my attire. My buttons were buttoned, my fly zipped, my blouse tucked into my pants. Still, for the entire day I couldn't shake the feeling that I'd never finished dressing, that something embarrassing was exposed and visible to everyone but me.

Tax wealth to fix the nation's woes

By CHUCK COLLINS
Progressive Media Project

Chuck Collins is a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies, where he co-edits Inequality.org. He is author of The Wealth Hoarders: How Billionaires Pay Millions to Hide Trillions. *This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

An annual wealth tax, levied on those who make more than $50 million a year, could solve a number of festering problems, from raising revenue for pandemic relief to slowing a democracy-disrupting concentration of power. It's an idea whose time has come.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., Reps. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., and Brendan Boyle, D-Pa., recently introduced legislation to levy a 2% annual tax on wealth starting at $50 million, rising to 3% on fortunes of more than $1 billion.

Polls show that the idea of a national wealth tax has overwhelming popular support, including among Republicans and independents.

The tax, which would apply to fewer than 100,000 U.S. residents, would raise an estimated $3 trillion over the next decade. It would be paid entirely by multimillionaires and billionaires who have reaped the lion's share of wealth gains over the last four decades, including during the pandemic.

According to one analysis, almost half the revenue would come from the 650 billionaires who have seen their wealth increase more than $1.3 trillion since March 2020, and who together hold $4.2 trillion in assets.

A wealth tax would reverse more than a half-century of tax cuts for the wealthiest households. Billionaires have seen their taxes decline roughly 79% as a percentage of their wealth since 1980. The "effective rate" on the billionaire class—the actual percentage paid—was 23% in 2018, lower than for most middle-income taxpayers.

The revenue from a wealth tax could be deployed to pay for pandemic emergency measures as well as urgently needed public investments in infrastructure, education and health care.

It will be opposed by "born again" Republican deficit hawks who voted for Trump tax cuts for the wealthy and other deficit spending, adding $7.8 trillion to the national debt during the Trump presidency. In 2017, 278 Republicans voted for a $2 trillion tax cut whose benefits went disproportionately to the wealthy and to a couple hundred global corporations.

Earlier this month, not a single Republican voted for an almost $2 trillion pandemic relief bill to provide stimulus checks, vaccine distribution, aid to reopen schools and extended unemployment benefits to those whose lives have been upended by COVID-19.

Members of the billionaire class have used their clout to rig the economy in their favor while blocking popular actions, such as reducing student debt and boosting the minimum wage. A wealth tax chips away at the money power that circumvents campaign finance rules. It puts a brake on the buildup of democracy-distorting concentrations of wealth and power.

One real concern is that the wealthy will find ways to avoid a wealth tax. Billionaire investor Leon Cooperman recently objected to the tax because "people are going to rush to find ways of hiding their wealth."

The super-wealthy will be able to hire a "wealth defense industry" of tax attorneys, wealth managers and accountants to play shell games with their assets. In my new book, "The Wealth Hoarders," I chronicle how these advisers are paid millions to hide trillions using offshore bank accounts, anonymous shell companies and dynasty trusts.

But with political will and leadership, this global wealth-hiding system could be fixed through increased enforcement and by banning trusts and tax scams that exist solely for the purposes of tax dodging. The U.S. should join other nations in boosting transparency and information sharing to shut down illicit money flows.

A wealth tax could begin to reverse four decades of extreme income and wealth inequality and build an economy that works for everyone, not just the wealthy.

ROCKS

From Page 8

resign, and Elise Stefanik, who called Cuomo a "criminal sexual predator" and demanded that he quit office at once, seek Reed's ouster too?

Speaking of hypocrisy, it was just a few days ago that Cuomo insisted that naysayers and politicians calling for his removal should instead wait for the conclusion of the attorney general's independent investigation into the sexual harassment accusations.

"Wait for the facts," Cuomo said last week. And yet, word comes that Cuomo's office has begun its own parallel inquiry into allegations made by a current employee that he groped her. If Cuomo really believes the AG's independent investigation should be the arbiter of the facts, then why would he conduct his own, separate and unsolicited probe? If he really believes in the value of an independent investigation to suss out the truth, then why did members of his administration leak unflattering details of one of his accusers' state personnel file to reporters?

Never expect consistency in politics.

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RENEWAL

From Page 8

partners," said Julia Weber of the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. "There are places in this country that are less inclined to recognize that those relationships are as in need of protection as married partners."

The bill, which now goes to the Senate, also closes a loophole in federal law that allows those convicted of misdemeanor stalking offenses to own guns. First-time felony stalking offenders often plead down to misdemeanor charges, which means they can still own and purchase firearms. But no one convicted of stalking should be allowed to own a weapon. Period.

Weber works to identify ways to implement gun safety policies. She often gives presentations that she likens to teaching "Domestic Violence 101." She told me she's surprised that she is still teaching legal professionals and others about how difficult it is for partners to leave abusive relationships, or why they choose to stay in spite of violence.

I'm surprised, too. I thought by now the complex dynamics of abusive relationships were fairly well known. Often, the most dangerous period in a violent relationship occurs when the victim finally leaves or receives a restraining order against her abuser.

Weber told me that more than a million American women who are alive today have been shot or shot at by intimate partners. I was so taken aback by that number, I asked her to send me written proof, which included another astonishing figure: About 4.5 million women have reported being threatened with a gun by an intimate partner.

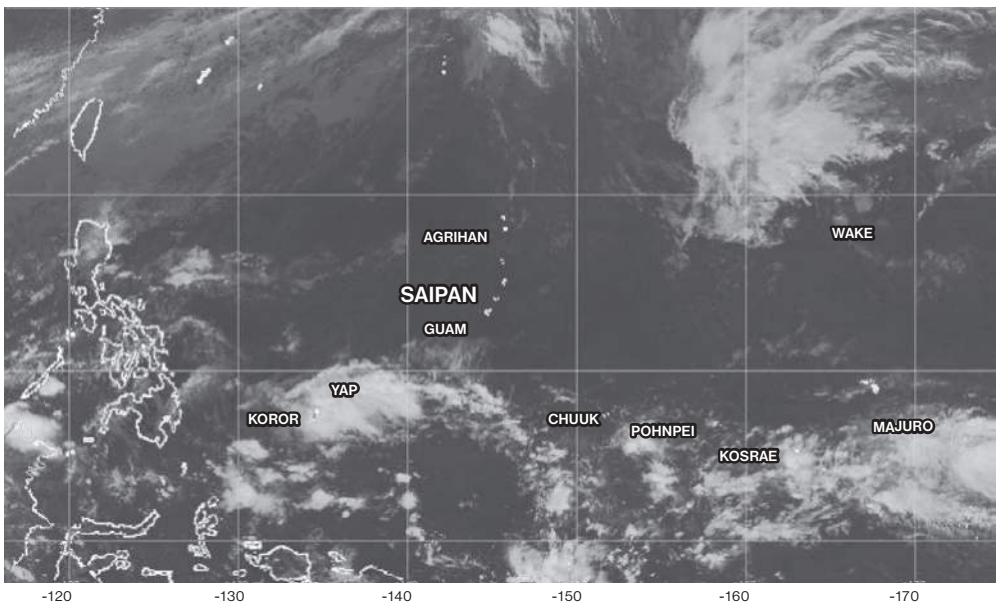
Despite the spasms of violence that rock us to our core, we can make our country safer from gun violence. Failing to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act would be a crime.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87º 76º	87º 76º	87º 76º	87º 76º	87º 76º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:10 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Visible satellite shows partly cloudy skies and only a few light showers moving through the Marianas waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed of a larger east trade-wind swell and a smaller north swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86 | 78 °F
Palau	Overcast	88 | 77 °F
Yap	Rain	83 | 72 °F
Chuuk	Overcast	86 | 79 °F
Pohnpei	Rain	80 | 78 °F
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	80 | 79 °F
Majuro	Overcast	89 | 73 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:16 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:38 AM	2:10 PM
Thursday	-	3:29 AM	3:07 PM
Friday	-	4:17 AM	4:06 PM
Saturday	-	5:03 AM	5:04 PM
Sunday	-	5:48 AM	6:03 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy 71 | 64 °F
Beijing	Clear 58 | 38 °F
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy 84 | 72 °F
Honolulu	Clear 84 | 71 °F
London	Clear 51 | 42 °F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy 70 | 57 °F
Manila	Mostly Cloudy 85 | 76 °F
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy 78 | 63 °F
Miami	Clear 78 | 59 °F
New York	Overcast 56 | 36 °F
Osaka	Rain 52 | 41 °F
Paris	Overcast 52 | 37 °F
Pusan	Clear 58 | 33 °F
Rome	Clear 65 | 46 °F
Salem	Light Rain 51 | 45 °F
San Francisco	Rain 62 | 56 °F
Seoul	Scattered Clouds 54 | 31 °F
Tokyo	Rain 51 | 43 °F
Washington, DC	Overcast 63 | 39 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
5:37 AM	High Tide	1.62
10:50 AM	Low Tide	1.19
3:15 PM	High Tide	1.51
10:47 PM	Low Tide	-0.02

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 5, 6
UA117	7:00am	7:40am	4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1, 5 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 5, 6
UA174	5:15am	5:56am	4

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:55pm	5:56am+1	3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Atkins Kroll announces Francia promotion

Atkins Kroll Saipan Inc. vice president and general manager Joel Lesh recently announced the promotion of Loida Francia to Car Rental and Body & Paint manager effective March 16, 2021.

"We are very pleased to promote Loida for her work performance and dedication to improve operations under her watch. We congratulate Loida and look forward to continued success in her career at AK," said Lesh.

Francia

Francia has worked for AK for more than 18 years and has taken duties in the car rental and accounting departments in roles such as rental agent, accounting clerk, Toyota Rent A Car (TRAC) supervisor, and body shop supervisor. During her tenure, Francia implemented operations and customer protocols, which improved TRAC and body shop departments' efficiency.

"AK has always been an equal opportunity employer, and Loida's promotion is recognition of both Loida's performance and her opportunity to advance into management positions at Atkins Kroll," added Lesh.

For more information, contact Ernie Galito at (671) 648-8400 or ernie.galito@AKguam.com.

Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, is the leading distributor of vehicles in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Micronesia, enabling it to provide a full range of products and services in the region. Atkins Kroll is Guam's oldest corporation, established in 1914 and represents Toyota, Lexus, Chevrolet, BMW, Toyota Rent A Car, ACE Rent a Car, and AC Delco brands. ***(PR)***

Tourism groups push US to eliminate travel restrictions

Airlines and other tourism-related businesses are pushing the White House to draw up a plan in the next five weeks to boost international travel and eliminate restrictions that were imposed early in the pandemic.

More than two dozen groups made their request in a letter to the White House on Monday.

They want people who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 to be exempt from testing requirements before entering the United States. They also want the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to say that vaccinated people can travel safely.

The groups say those and other steps will speed up the recovery of the travel and airline industries, which have been devastated by a plunge in travel during the pandemic.

U.S. air travel is already picking up. More than 1 million people have passed through U.S. airport checkpoints each of the last 11 days, with Sunday's total topping more than 1.5 million for the first time in more than a year. Passenger traffic is still below 2019 levels, however.

The organizations calling for relaxing international restrictions include the chief trade group for the nation's largest carriers, Airlines for America, the U.S. Travel Association and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. They set a May 1 target for the government "to partner with us" on a plan to rescind year-old restrictions on international travel.

The groups cited the recent decline in reported new cases, hospitalizations and deaths related to COVID-19 in the United States. Nearly 45 million Americans, more than 13% of the population, have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to CDC figures.

"The time to plan for and chart a defined roadmap to reopen international travel is now," they wrote in a letter to White House virus-response coordinator Jeffrey Zients.

The White House did not comment but referred to remarks by CDC Director Rochelle Walensky on Monday. Walensky said the health agency is working on new guidance for people who are vaccinated, but raised concern about recent increases in new reported cases of coronavirus in many European countries.

"If we look at our European friends, we just don't want to be at this rapid uptick of cases again, and that is very possible that that could happen,' she said. "We are so close to vaccinating so many more people .... Now is not the time to travel."

The airline industry hopes to see the lifting of broad restrictions on travel between the United States and Europe, China and other regions that former President Donald Trump imposed last spring to curb spread of the virus. Most non-U.S. citizens who have been in Europe are barred from entering the country.

The airlines have been lobbying the Biden administration to take a leading role in developing standards for so-called vaccine passports that would allow people to travel freely if they are vaccinated and pass a test for COVID-19. The European Union last week proposed a digital health certificate, but the U.S. administration has demurred, saying it's up to the private sector.

In the past year, the federal government has approved $65 billion to help airlines cover most of their payroll costs in exchange for keeping workers employed, plus billions more in low-interest loans. Most recently, President Joe Biden signed a $1.9 trillion relief package that included $15 billion for airlines. ***(AP)***

Powell says economy recovering but Fed support still needed

AP

In this Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020, file photo, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, right, testifies before the Senate Banking Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)— Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell says the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic has progressed more quickly than expected, but the central bank does not intend to let up in its support efforts.

In congressional testimony released Monday, Powell said that even though the recovery appears to be strengthening, there are still many pockets of weakness in the U.S. economy.

"The sectors of the economy most adversely affected by the resurgence of the virus and by greater social distancing remain weak," he said in his remarks prepared for an oversight hearing of the House Financial Services Committee on Tuesday.

"The recovery is far from complete, so, at the Fed, we will continue to provide the economy the support it needs for as long as it takes," Powell said.

Powell noted that the unemployment rate is still elevated at 6.2%, a statistic that does not fully reflect the number of jobless Americans who have given up and dropped out of the labor force.

He said the Fed will "not lose sight of the millions of Americans who are still hurting, including lower-wage workers in the services sector, African Americans, Hispanics and other minority groups that have been especially hard hit."

At its meeting last week, the Fed kept its benchmark interest rate at a record low of 0% to 0.25%. Even though it significantly raised its economic forecast, it continued to signal that its benchmark rate would remain where it is through 2023, giving a boost to financial markets.

Powell and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will testify Tuesday before the House panel and then testify Wednesday before the Senate Banking Committee in oversight hearings that were mandated by Congress when it passed relief legislation last year.

Powell gave credit to the prompt action by the Federal Reserve, local governments and businesses. He also cited congressional passage last March of the initial COVID-relief packages that provided $1,200 in individual support payments, emergency unemployment assistance and billions of dollars in forgivable loans to small businesses.

"While the economic fallout has been real and widespread, the worst was avoided by swift and vigorous action," Powell said.

The situation now appears to be improving, he said.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
3,922.00	32,560.00	13,021.50
-8.00	-59.00	-50.25
-0.20%	-0.18%	-0.38%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.29	Hong Kong Dollar	7.77	Russian Ruble	75.14
British Pound	0.7212	Indian Rupee	72.38	Singapore Dollar	1.34
Canadian Dollar	1.25	Japanese Yen	108.85	South Korean Won	1128.83
Chinese Yuan	6.51	Malaysian Ringgit	4.11	Swiss Franc	0.92
Euro	0.8379	Philippine Peso	48.60	Taiwan Dollar	28.39
				Thailand Baht	30.87

Nation

Police: 10 people killed at Colorado supermarket

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—A shooting at a Colorado supermarket killed 10 people Monday, including a police officer, and a suspect was in custody, authorities said.

Boulder police Chief Maris Herold announced the death toll at a news conference Monday night, fighting back tears.

The suspect was getting medical treatment and there was no further threat to the public, authorities said. Officers had escorted a shirtless man with blood running down his leg out of the store in handcuffs but authorities would not say if he was the suspect.

The officer who was killed was Eric Talley, 51, who had been with Boulder police since 2010, Herold said.

Victims' families were still being notified so their names weren't released, Boulder County District Attorney Michael Dougherty said.

"This is a tragedy and a nightmare for Boulder County, and in response, we have cooperation and assistance from local, state and federal authorities," Dougherty said.

Yamaguchi said police were still investigating and didn't have details on a motive for the shooting at the King Soopers store in Boulder, which is about 25 miles (40 kilometers) northwest of Denver and home to the University of Colorado.

Dean Schiller told The Associated Press that he had just left the supermarket when he heard gunshots and saw three people lying face down, two in the parking lot and one near the doorway. He said he "couldn't tell if they were breathing."

AP

Police stand outside a King Soopers grocery store where a shooting took place, Monday, March 22, 2021, in Boulder, Colo.

Video posted on YouTube showed one person on the floor inside the store and two more outside on the ground. What sounds like two gunshots are also heard at the beginning of the video.

Law enforcement vehicles and officers massed outside the store, including SWAT teams, and at least three helicopters landed on the roof. Some windows at the front of the store were broken.

At one point, authorities said over a loudspeaker that the building was surrounded and that "you need to surrender."

Sarah Moonshadow told the Denver Post that two shots rang out just after she and her son, Nicolas Edwards, finished buying strawberries. She said she told her son to get down and then "we just ran."

Once they got outside, she said they saw a body in the parking lot. Edwards said police were speeding into the lot and pulled up next to the body.

"I knew we couldn't do anything for the guy," he said. "We had to go."

James Bentz told the Post that he was in the meat section when he heard what he thought was a misfire, then a series of pops.

"I was then at the front of a stampede," he said.

Bentz said he jumped off a loading dock out back to escape and that younger people were helping older people off of it.

One person was taken from the shooting scene to Foothills Hospital in Boulder, said Rich Sheehan, spokesman for Boulder Community Health, which operates the hospital.

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis tweeted a statement that his "heart is breaking as we watch this unspeakable event unfold in our Boulder community."

Police had told people to shelter in place amid a report of an "armed, dangerous individual" about 3 miles (5 kilometers) away from the grocery store but said at the news conference later that it wasn't related to the shooting.

The FBI said it's helping in the investigation at the request of police.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki tweeted that President Joe Biden had been briefed on the shooting.

In a statement, the King Soopers chain offered "thoughts, prayers and support to our associates, customers, and the first responders who so bravely responded to this tragic situation. We will continue to cooperate with local law enforcement and our store will remain closed during the police investigation."

Biden eyes $3T package for infrastructure, schools, families

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fresh off passage of the COVID-19 relief bill, President Joe Biden is assembling the next big White House priority, a sweeping $3 trillion package of investments on infrastructure and domestic needs.

Biden huddled privately late Monday with Senate Democrats as Congress has already begun laying the groundwork with legislation for developing roads, hospitals and green energy systems as part of Biden's "Build Back Better" campaign promise. Much like the $1.9 trillion virus rescue plan signed into law earlier this month, the new package would also include family-friendly policies, this time focusing on education and paid family leave.

The White House plans are still preliminary, with a combined $3 trillion in spending proposed to boost the economy and improve quality of life, according to a person familiar with the options who insisted on anonymity to discuss private conversations.

While the goal is a bipartisan package, Democrats in Congress have signaled a willingness to go it alone if they are blocked by Republicans.

"We need to get it done," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., ahead of the virtual meeting with Biden at the senators' annual retreat Monday evening.

Biden's outreach to Senate Democrats comes as the White House is under fire for its handling of the U.S.-Mexico border. Migrant crossings are skyrocketing, with images of cramped holding facilities posing a humanitarian and political dilemma for the administration and its allies in Congress. The focus on infrastructure shifts attention back toward priorities that are potentially more popular with Americans and potentially bipartisan.

An infrastructure package would include roughly $1 trillion for roads, bridges, rail lines, electrical vehicle charging stations and the cellular network, among other items. The goal would be to facilitate the shift to cleaner energy while improving economic competitiveness.

A second component would include investments in workers with free community college, universal pre-kindergarten and paid family leave.

No part of the proposal has been finalized and the eventual details of any spending could change.

The overall price tag first reported Monday by The New York Times has been circulating on Capitol Hill for weeks, since the start of the Biden presidency. With the House and Senate under Democratic control, the proposals are expected to draw support from all corners of Congress.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi asked Democratic committee chairmen earlier this month to start working with their Republican counterparts to begin "to craft a big, bold and transformational infrastructure package."

Pelosi said the goal is to build swiftly on the coronavirus rescue plan by developing an economic relief plan to help "people in every zip code by creating good-paying jobs for the future."

The administration is positioning its priorities at a politically and fiscally sensitive time, after funding its $1.9 trillion relief package entirely with debt. The Federal Reserve estimates that spending could push growth this year to 6.5%, and additional spending would only add pressure to an economy already expected to run hot.

Biden's campaign proposed higher corporate taxes and increases on people making more than $400,000 annually, effectively undoing much of the 2017 tax cuts by his predecessor, Donald Trump.

Photos of migrant detention highlight Biden's border secrecy

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden's administration has tried for weeks to keep the public from seeing images like those that emerged Monday showing immigrant children in U.S. custody at the border sleeping on mats under foil blankets, separated in groups by plastic partitions.

Administration officials have steadfastly refused to call the detention of more than 15,000 children in U.S. custody, or the conditions they're living under, a crisis. But they have stymied most efforts by outsiders to decide for themselves.

Officials barred nonprofit lawyers who conduct oversight from entering a Border Patrol tent where thousands of children and teenagers are detained. And federal agencies have refused or ignored dozens of requests from the media for access to detention sites. Such access was granted several times by the administration of President Donald Trump, whose restrictive immigration approach Biden vowed to reverse.

The new president faces growing criticism for the apparent secrecy at the border, including from fellow Democrats.

Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said Monday "the administration has a commitment to transparency to make sure that the news media gets the chance to report on every aspect of what's happening at the border."

White House press secretary Jen Psaki added that the White House was working with homeland security officials and the Health and Human Services Department to "finalize details" and that she hoped to have an update in the "coming days."

Axios on Monday first published a series of photos taken inside the largest Border Patrol detention center, a sprawling tent facility in the South Texas city of Donna. The photos were released by Rep. Henry Cuellar, a Texas Democrat from the border city of Laredo.

Cuellar said he released the photos in part because the administration has refused media access to the Donna tent. He said he also wanted to draw attention to the extreme challenges that border agents face in watching so many children, sometimes for a week or longer despite the Border Patrol's three-day limit on detaining minors.

"We ought to take care of those kids like they're our own kids," Cuellar said.

Asia

Myanmar frees detained BBC journalist as protests continue

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The BBC said Monday that a journalist from its Burmese-language service was released by authorities in Myanmar but gave no details, as protesters in the Southeast Asian nation continued their broad civil disobedience movement against last month's military coup.

The journalist, Aung Thura, was detained on March 19 by men who appeared to be plainclothes security agents while reporting outside a court in the capital of Naypyitaw.

Arrests of media workers have been part of the junta's intensifying efforts to choke off information about resistance to the Feb. 1 coup. Some 40 journalists have been arrested since the coup, half of whom are still in detention—including Thein Zaw of The Associated Press—according to the Myanmar-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

Gunfire rang out repeatedly on Monday in the second-biggest city, Mandalay, in central Myanmar as security forces clashed with protesters. Some demonstrators set up road barricades and burned piles of debris to provide cover from live ammunition. Others used an oversized slingshot to hurl chunks of concrete at security forces.

Images taken at the protests showed a man with an apparent head injury being carried away by protesters. Unconfirmed reports and photographs posted on social media suggested several protestors were killed and there were numerous injuries. The violence followed a night when bursts of heavy machine-gun fire echoed through the city.

AP

A man runs past a road barricade and burning debris Monday, March 22, 2021, in Mandalay, Myanmar.

On Monday, lawmakers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations urged regional leaders to meet and devise a "strong and decisive response" to increased violence by Myanmar's military against protesters. The lawmakers urged the 10-nation bloc to send a delegation alongside the U.N. special envoy to Myanmar to help negotiate a "democratic and human rights-based solution."

ASEAN has a policy of non-interference in each other's affairs, but some regional leaders have rebuked the violence and urged restraint in Myanmar.

"The Myanmar army is killing people every day. Statements are welcome, but are useless against the military's bullets," said Charles Santiago, a Malaysian lawmaker who heads the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights group.

Since the military seized power, many citizens from teachers to doctors, traders and railway workers have joined a civil disobedience movement that uses widespread boycotts, strikes and other actions in an attempt to force a return to a civilian government.

The junta has responded with an increasingly brutal crackdown and sought to limit information reaching the outside world. Security forces have opened fire on crowds and killed hundreds, internet access has been severely restricted, private newspapers have been barred from publishing, and protesters, journalists and politicians have been arrested in large numbers.

Taiwan gives health workers island's 1st AstraZeneca doses

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Health care workers received the first shots in Taiwan's COVID-19 vaccination drive Monday, beginning a campaign that won't use supplies from China amid uneven distribution of the vaccines globally.

Taiwan has on hand 117,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, which it is distributing to healthcare workers across 57 hospitals.

Taiwanese premier Su Tseng-chang launched the drive by receiving the first shot at National Taiwan University Hospital in the capital Taipei. "After 30 minutes of rest, there's no signs of any discomfort," he said.

The rest period is for monitoring recipients for any adverse reactions.

Last week, more than a dozen nations suspended use of the AstraZeneca vaccine after a few dozen people among the millions who've received the vaccine developed blood clots. The European Union's drug regulatory agency concluded after a review it couldn't rule out a direct link but the benefits of using the vaccine outweigh the possible risks.

Taiwan has signed contracts securing 10 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, 5.05 million doses of the Moderna vaccine, and 4.76 million doses of vaccines through COVAX.

Currently, Taiwan has recorded 1,006 confirmed cases of COVID-19, most of those from visitors coming from abroad. It has been one of the most successful places in the world in the battle against the pandemic, owing to strict public health and border control measures.

The island is planning to administer its full initial supply to 117,000 individuals to ensure the broadest protection. The first dose provides an efficacy rate of 71% and the second dose—meant to be given eight weeks later—boosts its effectiveness to 81%, authorities have said previously.

Taiwan has yet to announce a vaccination campaign for the public.

Countries around the world are scrambling for vaccines, which have been distributed unevenly with rich countries buying up a majority of the doses. China has stepped in to offer hundreds of millions of doses of its own vaccines across the developing world, but Taiwan has refrained from buying them.

Taiwanese law bans import of Chinese vaccines made for human use. The island's health minister had said in February there were no considerations to amending the law and no experts have made a special recommendation for Chinese vaccines.

World

11 organizations demand halt to attacks and rape in Tigray

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The heads of nine U.N. agencies and other officials demanded a halt to attacks against civilians in Ethiopia's embattled Tigray region, "including rape and other horrific forms of sexual violence."

They called for an independent investigation into "conflict-related sexual violence in Tigray" that involves the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In a joint statement, the U.N. agencies, the U.N. special investigator on the human rights of internally displace people, and two umbrella organizations representing non-governmental groups doing humanitarian work also called on all parties in Tigray to explicitly condemn all sexual violence and ensure their forces "respect and protect civilian populations, particularly women and children, from all human rights abuses."

No one knows how many thousands of civilians or combatants have been killed since months of political tensions between Ethiopian President Abiy Ahmed's government and the Tigray leaders who once dominated Ethiopia's government exploded in November into war. Eritrea, a longtime Tigray enemy, is accused of teaming up with neighboring Ethiopia in the conflict, which Abiy's government has denied.

The region remains largely cut off from the world, with few journalists allowed in, and only now are steps being taken to allow the United Nations human rights office into Tigray to help investigate allegations of atrocities.

The dozen signatories, including U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet and U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock, urged the warring parties to take action to bring perpetrators of abuses to justice.

They stressed that "humanitarian access is essential" and aid workers need to reach all regions affected by conflict and violence, including major towns and rural areas.

"Women and children in affected areas are reporting significant challenges in accessing health, social welfare and justice services," they said.

"Initial assessments of 106 facilities in Tigray between December 2020 and March 2021 show that nearly 70% of facilities were looted, 30% damaged, and only 13% in Tigray were functional," the officials said. "Further health service availability assessments of over two-thirds of the total 264 facilities in the region report large and widespread disruptions of services," including child vaccinations in just 28% of facilities and nutrition services only in approximately 29% of functioning facilities.

They said: "Only one facility provides the full range of services for clinical management of rape survivors, and emergency contraception is fully available in less than half of the facilities assessed."

Many displaced people are living in unfinished or damaged buildings without separate spaces and latrines for women and men, girls and boys, "thus increasing risks of gender-based violence and the spread of certain infectious diseases," the officials said.

Colombian town uses discipline, speakers to stay virus-free

CAMPOHERMOSO, Colombia (AP)—When customers enter his hardware store Nelson Avila asks them to wear a mask and wash their hands. He sprays alcohol over the bills and coins they give him before putting them in the till.

Avila's shop is in Campohermoso, a town of 3,000 people in Boyaca state in the mountains of central Colombia that has no reported cases of the coronavirus. According to the Health Ministry, Campohermoso county—which consists of the town and surrounding farms and villages—is one of just two counties in the country that are COVID-19-free. Colombia has more than 1,100 counties.

"Those bills can carry the virus" said Avila, 49, as he disinfects a wad of wrinkled Colombian pesos. "They go from hand to hand, so we have to be careful."

Officials and locals say the town has been able to keep the virus away thanks to the disciplined behavior of its residents and constant campaigns urging people to social distance and wear masks.

The town's remote location ringed by mountains, far from major roads, has also helped it to stay coronavirus-free. It has just seven streets and six avenues laid out in a neat grid. It is nestled at the bottom of a green valley, 3300 feet (about 1,000 meters) above sea level.

"Campohermosos has a low population density and little contact with big cities," said Jairo Mauricio Santoyo, the health secretary for Boyaca state.

Given that Colombia, with a population of about 50 million people, has reported more than 2.3 million confirmed cases of the coronavirus, many consider the lack of infections here a small miracle.

During the first decade of this century, Campohermoso was affected by fighting between paramilitary groups and leftist rebels, says the town's mayor, Jaime Rodríguez. The coffee-growing area has been peaceful for more than a decade but it is seldom visited by outsiders.

Rodríguez says communication has been crucial in keeping the pandemic away from Campohermoso. Messages about the virus and how to prevent it are broadcast three times a day on speakers perched on the town's lampposts.

The local radio station also broadcasts daily shows that talk about prevention. To ensure everyone gets the message, the mayor's office distributed 1,000 radios to farmers who live in Campohermoso's rural areas.

"The whole town has come together" Rodríguez said. "The police, the health center, church personnel and the mayor's office all go on the radio station to talk about the virus."

Rodríguez said his message to townsfolk has been simple: "Its' up to every family to stop it."

He has also tried to lead by example. The mayor says he began to feel ill during a recent visit to Bogota, where he tested positive for the virus. He did not return to Campohermoso until he tested negative.

"We've put 60 families in town in quarantine because they showed some symptoms," Rodríguez said. "But all of them have tested negative."

Good Housekeeping

Gretchen's table: Beer-battered shrimp tacos

By GRETCHEN MCKAY
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
(TNS)

(GRETCHEN MCKAY/POST-GAZETTE/TNS)
Beer-battered shrimp are stuffed into a flour tortilla with shredded cabbage, lime crema, avocado, and salsa verde for a Lenten taco.

Fried fish tacos are a favorite seafood dish in our house, especially when cod is on sale at my local grocery.

Every once in a while, though, I load my flour or corn tortillas with fried shrimp instead. It's just as flavorful as fish, but somehow feels more festive. It's easy to prepare and cooks up even faster than fish.

Sometimes I simply toss the shrimp in a little flour to make it crunchy, but I also love a good beer batter. This recipe uses half all-purpose and half rice flours for a light and crispy batter. I used a white winter lager because that's what was in my fridge, but have also made it with Irish red ale. Just be careful to add the beer slowly and mix as you go, so the batter is free of lumps and has the consistency of a thick pancake batter.

Shredded cabbage and sliced radish add to the tacos' crunch. I tend to follow a "more is better" philosophy here, so I add a lot of tangy lime crema and salsa verde. You also could pump up the flavor with more avocado or a heavy sprinkle of chopped cilantro.

That's the great thing about tacos: You can customize each and every bite.

SHRIMP TEMPURA TACOS
PG tested
For shrimp
1½ cups rice flour, divided
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 (12-ounce) bottle lager-style beer, cold
Vegetable oil, for frying
Kosher salt
12 jumbo shrimp, peeled and deveined
For lime crema
½ cup sour cream
½ cup mayonnaise
Juice from 1 lime (about 3 tablespoons)
½ teaspoon sugar
Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste
To assemble tacos
6 flour tortillas, warmed, for serving
¼ head green or red cabbage, or a mix, shredded
4 radishes, thinly sliced into rounds
Handful of chopped cilantro
1 avocado, peeled and cubed
Homemade or jarred salsa verde, for serving
Lime wedges

In a large bowl, whisk together 1 cup of rice flour with the all-purpose flour and baking powder.

Pour about half of the bottle of beer into the bowl and whisk gently. If batter is too thick, add a little more beer. (It should be the consistency of a thick pancake batter.) Be careful not to overwork the batter; a few lumps are OK. Place batter in fridge until ready to use.

Prepare crema by mixing sour cream, mayonnaise, lime juice and sugar in a small bowl. Season to taste with a pinch of salt and black pepper; set aside.

Pour 2 inches of oil into a large skillet or a Dutch oven and heat until it reaches 350 degrees.

Line a plate with paper towels and sprinkle the remaining ½ cup rice flour on a separate plate. Season shrimp all over with salt.

Remove tempura batter from fridge. Dredge the salted shrimp in rice flour and then dip the pieces into the batter, one by one.

Carefully add each piece of shrimp to the hot oil. Work them in small batches to avoid crowding the pan. Fry until the shrimp is golden brown, about 2-3 minutes. Transfer to the plate with paper towels and season immediately with more salt.

To assemble the tacos: Lay warm tortillas on serving plates. Place 1 tablespoon lime crema on each tortilla and spread using the back of a spoon. Add a small mound of cabbage, some radish slices and chopped cilantro. Place a couple of fried shrimp on top, followed by some diced avocado and a drizzle of salsa verde. Squeeze a couple of the lime wedges over the tacos, and serve the rest on the side.

Makes 6 generous tacos.

(GRETCHEN MCKAY/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/TNS)
Potato Soup made with shredded cheddar and Irish Red ale is perfect for any day you want something sumptuous.

Gretchen's table: Potato soup with cheese

By GRETCHEN MCKAY
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
(TNS)

My father's favorite soup was potato, and my daughters have inherited his love for it.

Every Wednesday when they were in high school, I would buy them a quart of potato soup from a local restaurant. Even today, after they have moved out of the house, I still send them a batch on occasion. (It's a Mom thing!)

This potato soup recipe is perfect for these evenings when there is a chill in the air as we await spring. Even though the soup includes milk and a touch of half-and-half, there's enough chicken stock in the broth to make it taste quite light.

Soups were made to be garnished, so this recipe has a couple tasty add-ins—crumbled blue cheese for a bit of tang and crispy bacon for a smoky, salty finish.

This past week I served it with Irish soda bread in observation of St. Patrick's Day, but any crusty, high-quality bread will add to your dunking pleasure. It also will help in sopping up the last couple of drops in the bowl.

I like to mash half the potatoes before stirring in the milk and cheese. Leftovers can be refrigerated for two days, but it won't freeze particularly well (the potatoes will turn mushy).

POTATO SOUP WITH SHREDDED CHEDDAR
PG tested
4 tablespoons butter, divided
2 cups chopped yellow onion
2 leeks, sliced and washed
8 medium Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and coarsely chopped
1 (12-ounce) bottle Irish ale
4 cups chicken or vegetable stock
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
3 cups whole milk
½ cup half-and-half
8 ounces grated sharp cheddar
For optional garnishes
Finely minced parsley
4 ounces crumbled blue cheese
Crisp cooked bacon, crumbled

Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a 6- to 8-quart stockpot. Add onion and leeks. Cook over medium heat for about 10 minutes until the vegetables are barely soft.

Add potatoes, ale, stock and a pinch or two of salt and pepper and bring to a boil. Lower the heat, cover, and simmer until potatoes are tender, about 45 minutes. When soft, mash about half of the potatoes with a masher or fork and leave the rest whole.

Melt remaining butter in a medium saucepan. Gradually add flour, whisking until smooth. Cook 3 minutes on medium-low heat, stirring constantly, to remove the raw taste. Slowly stir in milk and half-and-half, whisking until hot and thickened. Add cheddar cheese and stir until melted.

Stir cheese and milk mixture into potato mixture until well combined. Cook over very low heat for 10 minutes until soup is heated through.

Ladle into soup bowls and sprinkle with parsley, blue cheese and bacon, if desired.

Makes 8 servings.

Life & Style

Comic, Netflix staple Jo Koy talks race, rejection in memoir

Like many famous comics, Jo Koy had early struggles at comedy clubs. But, unlike them, the half white and half Filipino comedian could only seem to book spots on ethnic theme nights like "Wonton Wednesdays" and "Asian Invasion."

"There's a lot of comics that had to do it. I'm not just saying Asians—Black people, Latinos, anyone that was 'other' had to do these themed shows. And it sucks," Koy recalled recently.

Segregating comics may sound bizarre and offensive in today's world but that underlying racism "baked into" the comedy club circuit was acceptable in the early 2000s, according to Koy. How he went from there to being a Netflix darling and having a movie deal with Steven Spielberg is part of the career journey Koy, 49, tells in his new memoir.

"Mixed Plate: Chronicles of an All-American Combo," out Tuesday, is an ideal companion to Koy's stand-up with its humorous—and at times painful—origin stories behind some of his most popular bits. The book shows how Koy's mixed-race background ultimately shaped his brand of comedy and his determination not to give up on his childhood dream.

"I'm not trying to pat myself on the back. It was a long road," Koy said. "And when I finally got to this point in my career, I just looked at my manager. I was like, 'Man, I would really like to tell people, you know, this struggle, and how hard it was to really get here.'"

With the help of a writing partner, Koy, born Joseph Glenn Herbert, lays bare how he grappled with his mixed-race identity as a child growing up in Tacoma, Washington. He doesn't shy away from deeply personal topics including an older brother with violent schizophrenia and a father who left when he was only 12 years old. (The book also documents their reconciliation.)

"I've always been open to just letting people be inside my life," Koy said. "So when I said I was going to write a book, of course I'm going to tell them everything. Or else, you're not going to really know the story of how I got there."

Koy, who's sold out stadium shows, has aspired to make people laugh since age 11. He didn't "speak school" and was never interested in conventional pursuits like college. For him, earning $5 doing stand-up on an open mic in a coffeehouse was more thrilling. By the 1990s, he followed his mother and stepfather to Las Vegas and started doing comedy contests and small clubs there. In 2001, he decided to make the big move to Los Angeles.

AP PHOTO/CHRIS PIZZELLO

Comedian Jo Koy poses for a portrait in Los Angeles on March 2, 2021, to promote his book "Mixed Plate: Chronicles of an All-American Combo."

The comedy club circuit wasn't exactly receptive to his bi-racial appearance.

"You come to Hollywood, and they have no idea what they're looking at—as horrible as that sounds," Koy said. "'What's your story? We don't get it. Where do we put you?'"

Koy took whatever gigs at clubs like The Improv and the Laugh Factory—even the ethnic "theme nights." Meanwhile, he juggled as many as three part-time jobs. By 2003, he also had to factor in his newborn son.

In the book, he recounts performing at the Laugh Factory while a then-unknown Tiffany Haddish would be off to the side watching his son.

"We had that that little bond of ours, you know, that we both had seen struggle," Koy said. "I love Tiffany, that she was there during that process. She still is in my life to this day, which is even more amazing."

Seeing his toddler son play with his mother, it hit Koy that family life could be funny fodder. While mimicking his mother's accent and mannerisms is now classic Koy, he initially hesitated for fear of being labeled "the Filipino comic." But he saw that all audiences seemed to find anecdotes involving his mother relatable.

"That's when I knew. I was like, 'Oh, I got something good here. I know how to do it now,'" Koy said.

His Filipino roots shine brightly in the book. Koy may be the first comic with a memoir that's part recipe book. There are instructions on how to make Filipino dishes like lumpia and chicken adobo. He wants to keep being "an ambassador for Filipino food" and culture.

With three Netflix comedy specials under his belt in the last four years, including one filmed in Manila, Koy said people often think that the streaming service discovered him. But like other times in his life, he was rejected by them for their 2017 comedy slate.

Determined to give them a reason to say yes, Koy put on his own special. He booked a theater in Seattle and paid for a high-quality crew to film it. The final product was enough to elicit an offer from Netflix.

Since then, Koy has built a reputation as an in-demand comedian. With plenty of on-screen experience including being a panelist on Chelsea Handler's old E! talk show, "Chelsea Lately," Koy seems one sitcom or film away from the next level of stardom.

Autopsy report: Bobby Brown's son died from drugs, alcohol

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bobby Brown Jr., the son of singer Bobby Brown, died from the combined effects of alcohol, cocaine and the opioid fentanyl, an autopsy report released Monday said.

Brown Jr. was found dead in his Los Angeles home at age 28 on Nov. 18. At the time authorities said only that they believed no foul play was involved.

Brown Jr.'s girlfriend, who had last seen him alive that morning, found him unresponsive on his bedroom floor and called paramedics, who declared him dead, the report says.

He had a history of drug and alcohol use and his death was ruled an accident, the report says.

Brown Jr.'s mother was Kim Ward, with whom Brown had been in a long relationship.

The elder Brown sprang to fame with New Edition in the early 1980s, and was one of the biggest solo stars in music during the late 80s and 90s.

In 2012, Bobby Brown's ex-wife, Whitney Houston, was found dead after drowning in a Beverly Hills hotel room bathtub. Coroner's officials said heart disease and cocaine were contributing factors. She was 48.

In 2015, their daughter, Bobbi Kristina Brown, was found face-down in a bathtub at her suburban Atlanta home. She was in a coma for six months before dying at age 22 of causes investigators couldn't pinpoint. An autopsy showed that she had morphine, cocaine, alcohol and prescription drugs in her body.

Her ex-partner, Nick Gordon, was found liable for her death in a lawsuit, but was never criminally charged. Gordon died last year at age 30.

Teen confides in stepmom, but swears her to secrecy

DEAR ABBY: My beautiful 17-year-old stepdaughter, "Amelia," recently became sexually active. She's in a "serious" relationship with the boy she had sex with. They have been together for six months, and from what she's told me, they both gave each other their virginity and protection was used. She has not disclosed this to her parents.

My husband and Amelia are very close, but she and her mom recently had a falling-out. Amelia pledged me to secrecy, and I immediately scheduled her to see an OB/GYN to get her on birth control.

My question is, should I tell my husband? I feel awful not telling him, but she has told me she doesn't want either of her parents to know. I'm grateful she comes to me for things like this, but eventually, it's going to come out when my husband sees the explanation of benefits from the insurance.

Amelia's mom and I have a solid relationship, and my husband and her mom also have a good one. I don't want to keep secrets regarding their daughter, but I don't want to betray my stepdaughter either. Please help.

STRUGGLING STEPMOM

DEAR STEPMOM: It isn't necessary to betray your stepdaughter's confidence to get her the help she needs. Go online to plannedparenthood.org, locate the nearest Planned Parenthood clinic and share that information with Amelia. The organization provides a wide range of low-cost services to women and men, including family planning, STD diagnosis and treatment, and birth control on a confidential basis. You should also encourage Amelia to discuss this with her parents. She is behaving responsibly in wanting to protect herself.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for decades, but 10 years ago she had, at the least, a texting affair with "Brad," a longtime friend of her brother's. Her brother, who knows about the affair, lives on a large tract of land owned by their father. Brad is there often to go hunting with her brother. My wife and I used to visit frequently, but now there is some concern that Brad might be there and we'll have a conflict, so we don't go as much. The affair was very upsetting to me, but my wife insisted we keep it quiet so her brother could continue his friendship with Brad.

Over the years, she has occasionally had online contact with Brad and even told him that she appreciated him talking with our son because our son has few friends. But now our son, who knows nothing about the affair or how bad it hurt me, has become friendly with Brad. It is very difficult hearing him talk about things they do together. Should we tell our son about the affair?

STILL HURT IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR STILL HURT: Tempting as it may be to "out" your wife to your son, keep that information to yourself. I question the wisdom of Brad having been encouraged to cultivate a relationship with your son since this friendship is the fruit of that decision. Because you prefer not to hear what your son and Brad are doing, the next time it comes up, change the subject. He may or may not catch on and question you about the reason, but if he does, all you need to say is you'd rather not discuss it.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

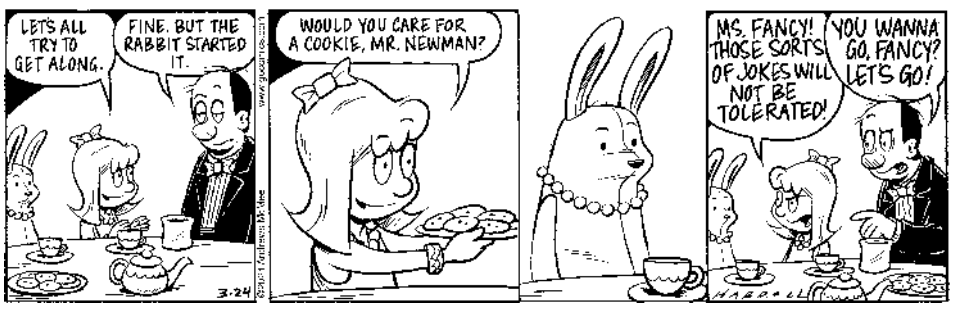
SAY, CALVIN, THAT NICE GIRL DOWN THE STREET SEEMS TO THINK YOU'RE A TOTAL JERK
WHO, SUSIE? YOU WEREN'T TALKING TO SUSIE, WERE YOU?
YES. I OFFERED TO CARRY HER BOOKS AND SHE...
YOU DID WHAT?!
SHE CLEARLY DOESN'T TRUST YOU AT ALL.
OH, MAN! NOBODY SAW YOU, DID THEY?! THEY'LL THINK IT WAS ME! YOU WANT TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE I LIKE HER?!
SHE SEEMED UPSET, SO THIS AFTERNOON I TOOK HER SOME FLOWERS I PICKED, BUT...
AUGHH! AUGHH! AUGHH!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset


LET'S ALL TRY TO GET ALONG.
FINE. BUT THE RABBIT STARTED IT.
WOULD YOU CARE FOR A COOKIE, MR. NEWMAN?
MS. FANCY! THOSE SORTS OF JOKES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!
YOU WANNA GO, FANCY? LET'S GO!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

GO OUT WITH YOU SATURDAY NIGHT?
LET ME CHECK MY CALENDAR TO MAKE SURE I DON'T HAVE ANY CONFLICTING THINGS GOING ON...
DARN, I CAN'T. THAT'S THE DAY I PROMISED MYSELF TO NOT BE MISERABLE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Halloween greeting
4 Owns
7 "Li'l Abner" creator
8 Inventor Nikola
10 Rush
11 Fix a road
13 Bringing home the bacon
16 Clip- — (some ties)
17 Ouzo flavor
18 Oklahoma city
19 Test tube
20 GPS suggestions
21 Avoid
23 Trusty horse
25 Botch up
26 Prom dress
27 911 responder
28 Riyadh resident
30 Gratuity
33 Grabbing some z's
36 Ritzy spread
37 Tycoon
38 Lukewarm
39 Barak of Israel
40 Tax form ID
41 Press for payment

DOWN

1 Soaks up the sun
2 — -Free (contact lens solution)
3 Alfresco
4 Cads
5 Easy — (simple)
6 Pole, e.g.
7 "Misery" star James
8 Hiker's path
9 Emulate Earhart
10 Med. plan option
12 Finished
14 Bitty biter
15 Cooking fuel
19 Sports-caster Scully
20 Stimpy's pal
21 Poison —
22 — Klub ("Cabaret" venue)
23 Lays down the lawn
24 Dorm room furniture
25 Pensioned (Abbr.)
26 Sentry
28 Salon sounds
29 "Encore!"
30 Spring-steen's "Born —"
31 Sport shirt brand
32 Calligrapher's instrument
34 Currier's partner
35 Pearl Harbor site

Solution time: 23 mins.

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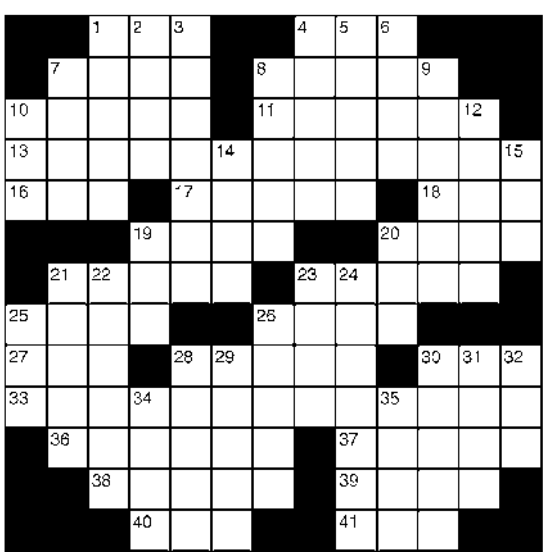
S	A	S	E		V	E	T		S	O	B	S

Yesterday's answer 3-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amanda Brugel, 43; Alyson Hannigan, 47; Jim Parsons, 48; Louie Anderson, 68.

Happy Birthday: Take control of your life. You'll encounter opportunities that will take you in a new and exciting direction. Pool all your resources and leave nothing to chance. Doors will open that have been closed in the past. Don't fear change; display what you have to offer, and embrace life, love and happiness. Romance is on the rise. Your numbers are 8, 13, 22, 29, 34, 42, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Be clear regarding what you want to do and how you plan to proceed, but don't expect others to tag along or agree with you. Be open to suggestions, but don't let anyone push you in a different direction. Follow your heart. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* If you are anxious, you'll make a mistake. Take a moment, think things through, consider all your options and make a decision based on moderation and intuition. Don't give anyone a chance to railroad you into something you don't need or want. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Pull out all the stops and take action. It's what you do, not what you say, that will make the difference. A chance to work alongside someone you trust and respect will make your life easier. An unexpected opportunity will tempt you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Rethink your motives and what you are trying to achieve. Rework your plan to fit the results you expect, and forge ahead. Don't let a physical or emotional attraction you have with someone jeopardize your position or reputation. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stop before you make an irreversible mistake. Spend more time honing your skills and figuring out what it is you want. Personal improvement will lead to a better life, friendships and insight. A romantic gesture will encourage a commitment. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep your life simple and your discussions truthful. Observe the changes going on around you, and consider what's best for you before you make a move. You'll encounter a learning curve if you ignore what's happened in the past. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Focus on fitness, health and spending energetic time with the people you love. Get involved in activities that push you to be and do your best, and you'll find the contentment and satisfaction you are searching for. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Mull over your plans, and elaborate on what it is you want to pursue. The changes you implement are best done in secret until you have everything in place. The less friction, the easier it will be to get things done. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Steer clear of joint ventures. You will do well if you put your time and money into personal and home improvement. Don't trust or believe anyone who makes unrealistic promises. Concentrate on what you can do by yourself. Physical fitness is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* It's time to do things differently. Keeping up with the changing times will ensure that you don't get left behind. Update your surroundings and sell items you no longer use, and you'll feel liberated and eager to begin something exciting. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take control and sort through anything you've left unfinished. You'll feel better once you have everything in its place. Give life to something you have been putting off due to other people's interference. Do what makes you happy. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be quiet about your plans. The less anyone knows about your goals, the easier it will be for you to get things done. Change the way you live, and lower your overhead to fit a more restrictive budget. Put an end to being controlled. ✪✪✪

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6	7	8				
	9				2			
3	5				1	6		
5							9	
2							8	
1	3	8		5	4	7		
		2		4				
	2				3			
	4	7	5	9	8			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	9	7	8	5	1	6	4	2
6	8	5	2	3	4	9	7	1
1	4	2	9	6	7	8	3	5
8	1	3	5	2	9	4	6	7
7	5	6	3	4	8	1	2	9
9	2	4	1	7	6	5	8	3
5	6	8	7	1	2	3	9	4
4	7	1	6	9	3	2	5	8
2	3	9	4	8	5	7	1	6

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DAWN WELLS (1938-2020) **Solution: 11 letters**

W	A	G	O	N	E	I	L	O	O	G	N	E	V	S
I	G	C	I	P	E	M	A	R	Y	A	N	N	N	U
N	S	D	C	I	H	R	A	R	Y	I	K	A	I	M
T	R	L	N	E	S	O	R	V	A	A	G	C	N	M
E	E	E	T	A	S	A	L	R	E	I	D	A	O	E
R	T	N	G	H	L	S	T	L	L	R	M	O	O	R
H	T	R	A	N	R	S	F	L	Y	W	I	R	T	S
A	O	G	E	L	I	E	I	M	A	W	A	C	R	N
W	R	G	E	S	P	G	E	L	E	N	O	E	K	R
K	T	N	D	R	C	E	A	H	G	L	T	O	Ⓢ	E
E	E	I	I	R	G	U	C	E	D	S	R	Ⓞ	D	T
E	B	K	S	O	G	E	E	I	I	R	Ⓐ	A	E	N
R	O	O	N	H	H	N	E	S	T	Ⓟ	I	R	H	I
C	L	O	I	T	E	E	N	K	N	O	W	H	E	N
D	G	C	S	C	O	N	T	E	S	T	A	N	T	A

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Access, Area, Contestant, Cooking, Creek, Epic, Gilligan's, Ginger, Globetrotters, Greg, Harlem, Hollywood, Inside, Interns, Island, Know, Larry, Laugh, Lawman, Mary Ann, Maverick, Meego, Nest, Orange, Planet, Rescue, Rock, Rosen, Sisters, Soap, Summers, Svengoolie, Teen, The Chew, Third, Three, Today, Toon In, Train, Wagon, Winterhawk

Yesterday's Answer: Dietary

Treasuries 22 through 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Elgin Baylor, Lakers great and aerialist pioneer, dies at 86

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Elgin Baylor changed the very direction of basketball when he joined the NBA and brought his vertical feats of athletic brilliance to a largely horizontal game.

He filled scoresheets and sparked young imaginations with his trailblazing aerial style, and every high-flying player of the past 60 years has followed his path.

Although the Lakers' first superstar in Los Angeles never won a championship ring, Baylor still looms high above the franchise and the game he loved.

The Hall of Fame forward died Monday of natural causes in Los Angeles with wife Elaine and daughter Krystal by his side, the team said. He was 86.

An 11-time All-Star who soared through the 1960s with a high-scoring artistry that became the model for the modern basketball player, Baylor played a major role in revolutionizing basketball from a ground-bound sport into an aerial show.

"Elgin was THE superstar of his era—his many accolades speak to that," Lakers owner Jeanie Buss said in a statement.

With a silky-smooth jumper and fluid athleticism, Baylor spent parts of 14 seasons with the Lakers in Minneapolis and Los Angeles, teaming with Jerry West in one of the most potent tandems in basketball history.

Baylor's second career as a personnel executive for 22 1/2 years with the woebegone Los Angeles Clippers was far less successful, but he remained a beloved figure in Los Angeles and beyond. Baylor strengthened his ties again to the Lakers over the past decade, and the team honored him with a statue outside Staples Center in 2018.

"Elgin Baylor set the course for the modern NBA as one of the league's first superstar players," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "In addition to his legendary playing career, Elgin was a man of principle. He was a leading activist during the height of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s and an influential voice among his fellow players."

The 6-foot-5 Baylor played in an era before significant television coverage of basketball, and confoundingly little of his play was ever captured on film. His athletic brilliance is best remembered by those who saw it in person. No one had a better view than West, who once called him "one of the most spectacular shooters the world has ever seen."

Baylor had an uncanny ability to hang in mid-air indefinitely, inventing shots and improvising deception along his flight path. Years before Julius Erving and Michael Jordan became international heroes with their similarly acrobatic games, Baylor created the blueprint for the modern superstar.

Baylor was the first NBA player to score 70 points in a game, and he still holds the single-game NBA Finals scoring record with 61 against Boston in 1962. He averaged 27.4 points and 13.5 rebounds over his career, and he even averaged a career-best 38 points during a season in which he only played on weekend passes while on active duty as an Army reservist.

"I spent a lot of time with him over the years," Charles Barkley said during CBS' coverage of the NCAA Tournament. "To me, he's probably the most underrated great basketball player of all time. He always carried himself with great dignity and respect."

Baylor played high above most of his contemporaries, but never won a championship or led the NBA in scoring largely because he played at the same time as centers Bill Russell, who won all the rings, and Wilt Chamberlain, who claimed all the scoring titles. Knee injuries hampered the second half of Baylor's career, although he remained a regular All-Star.

AP

Elgin Baylor stands next to a statue, just unveiled, honoring the Minneapolis and Los Angeles Lakers great, outside Staples Center in Los Angeles, in this Friday, April 6, 2018, file photo.

West and Baylor were the first in the long tradition of dynamic pairings with the Lakers, followed by Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in the 1980s before Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal won three more titles in the 2000s.

"My first few years in the league, he cared for me like a father would a son," West said Monday. "We shared the joy of winning and the heartbreaking losses in the finals. He was a prince both on and off the court."

Baylor's Lakers lost six times in the NBA Finals to the Boston Celtics and another time to the New York Knicks. Los Angeles won the 1971-72 title, but only after Baylor retired nine games into the season, dissatisfied with his standard of play due to his ailing knees.

"Before there was Michael Jordan doing amazing things in the air, there was Elgin Baylor!" Johnson tweeted. "A true class act and great man."

Elgin Gay Baylor was born in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 16, 1934. Named after his father's favorite watch, an "Elgin" timepiece, Baylor became infatuated with his sport even before he could afford a basketball, instead learning to shoot with a tennis ball.

After struggling academically in high school, Baylor played at Seattle University from 1956-58, averaging 31.3 points a game and leading the team to the 1958 NCAA championship game, where it lost to coach Adolph Rupp's Kentucky Wildcats.

Baylor was the No. 1 NBA draft pick in 1958 by the Minneapolis Lakers, who were near bankruptcy after a steep fall from their first championship era. Baylor immediately saved the Lakers with his scoring and style.

He won the Rookie of the Year award and led the Lakers to the NBA Finals, where they lost to the fledgling Celtics dynasty in the first of the rivals' 12 championship series meetings.

Baylor scored 64 points on Nov. 8, 1959 — then the league single-game record, and the Lakers' record for 45 years until Bryant broke it. He then became the first NBA player to surpass 70 points, scoring 71 on Dec. 11, 1960, against New York.

When the Lakers moved to Los Angeles in 1960, Baylor became the centerpiece of their Hollywood revival. West also arrived from West Virginia in 1960, and they immediately clicked, averaging 69.1 combined points per game and becoming lifelong friends.

Baylor played in only 48 games during the 1961-62 season because of his military service, yet the Lakers still won the Western Conference by 11 games. Baylor's 61 points in Game 5 of the finals put the Lakers ahead 3-2, but they lost to the Celtics in overtime in Game 7 — the pinnacle of the Lakers' suffering at Boston's hands.

Frank Selvy missed a 10-foot jumper that would have won the game in regulation. In film of that moment, Baylor appears poised to get Selvy's rebound, then disappears from the screen. Baylor contended he was pushed out of bounds by Boston's Sam Jones.

"I've always felt that was our championship," Baylor told the Riverside Press-Enterprise in 2000.

He never got closer to a ring.

Baylor's knee problems began in the 1963-64 season, but he remained a star during his slow decline. He played his last full season in 1968-69 and suited up only sporadically until retiring at 37 in the fall of 1971. He was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1977.

The expansion New Orleans Jazz hired Baylor as an assistant coach for their debut season in 1974, and he eventually served as their head coach for parts of three seasons.

The Clippers hired Baylor as their vice president for basketball operations in 1986, but the franchise was the model of sports ineptitude for most of his stay—poor drafting, indifferent fans and skinflint financial dealings. Most knowledgeable basketball people realized owner Donald Sterling was to blame for the franchise's woes, while Baylor received both admiration for his tenacity and ridicule for the Clippers' struggles.

Rockets stop 20-game slide with win against Raptors

HOUSTON (AP)— The Houston Rockets ended their 20-game losing streak, using John Wall's first triple-double in five years to beat the Toronto Raptors 117-99 on Monday night.

Houston's skid was tied for the ninth-worst in NBA history and the longest since Philadelphia's record-setting, 28-game losing streak across the 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons.

Wall had 19 points, 10 assists and 11 rebounds for his first triple-double since Feb. 5, 2016.

Houston also handed the Raptors their ninth straight loss, which now represents the NBA's longest active losing streak.

Clippers 119, Hawks 110

In Los Angeles, Kawhi Leonard scored 25 points, and the Clippers rallied from a 22-point deficit in the second half to snap the Hawks' eight-game winning streak.

Terance Mann had a season-high 21 points for the Clippers, who fell behind 88-66 in the third quarter shortly after a frustrated coach Ty Lue put in a lineup of five reserves. With Mann and Luke Kennard leading the comeback, Los Angeles ended the game on a dominant 53-22 run.

Bucks 140, Pacers 113

In Milwaukee, Jrue Holiday had 28 points and 14 assists, and Milwaukee posted its seventh straight win despite playing without Giannis Antetokounmpo because of a sprained left knee.

Coach Mike Budenholzer said he thinks the reigning two-time NBA MVP got hurt during a 120-113 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Saturday. He isn't sure how long he will be out.

Hornets 100, Spurs 97

In San Antonio, Gordon Hayward scored 27 points, Terry Rozier added 24 and Charlotte got the win in its first game since losing LaMelo Ball to injury.

Ball fractured his right wrist Saturday after a hard fall against the Los Angeles Clippers. Regarded as the leading candidate for NBA Rookie of the Year, Ball is expected to miss the remainder of the season.

P.J. Washington added 10 points and 13 rebounds as Charlotte snapped a three-game skid.

Grizzlies 132, Celtics 126, OT

In Memphis, Tenn., Ja Morant had 29 points and nine assists, and Memphis won for the third time in four games.

Dillon Brooks had 24 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for the Grizzlies. Jonas Valanciunas finished with 16 points and 19 rebounds.

Jaylen Brown led Boston with 27 points, and Jeff Teague finished with a season-high 26 points. Robert Williams III had 17, and Marcus Smart scored 16.

Jazz 120, Bulls 95

In Chicago, Donovan Mitchell scored 30 points, sending Utah to the road win.

Rudy Gobert had 21 points, 10 rebounds and a career-high nine blocks for the Jazz, who rolled to their second straight win after losing five of eight.

Mitchell made five 3-pointers, one shy of his season high. The two-time All-Star also had six rebounds and six assists.

Thunder 112, Timberwolves 103

In Minneapolis, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 31 points, and Oklahoma City relied on strong 3-point shooting in the road win.

The Thunder set a season high with 21 3-pointers in just 37 attempts. Eight of the nine players who entered the game for the Thunder hit at least one 3-pointer. Only center Moses Brown didn't convert from beyond the arc, but he contributed 17 rebounds.

Reserve guard Ty Jerome led the way by hitting all five of his 3-point attempts. Gilgeous-Alexander was 4 for 6 from deep, while Aleksej Pokuševski and Théo Maledon each hit three 3s.

Kings 119, C avaliers 105

In Cleveland, De'Aaron Fox scored 30 points, Tyrese Haliburton had a career-high 28 and the Kings completed their longest road trip of the season with a victory over the Cavaliers.

Buddy Hield added 19 points and Richaun Holmes had 17 points and 16 rebounds for the Kings, who went 3-3 on their 10-day trip. Harrison Barnes made a late run at a triple-double with nine points, 10 rebounds and eight assists.

Timme sparkles, Gonzaga rolls past Oklahoma into Sweet 16

AP

Gonzaga forward Drew Timme (2) shoots under Oklahoma guard Elijah Harkless (24) in the second half of a college basketball game in the second round of the NCAA tournament at Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Monday, March 22, 2021.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)— Mark Few sat down at the microphone, the Gonzaga coach's hair disheveled after he was doused with water and threw down a celebratory handstand in the locker room.

Even after 32 straight wins dating to last season, the Bulldogs are relishing their triumphs during an NCAA Tournament run that can only conclude in two ways: perfection or disappointment.

"We've been celebrating every one of these wins. We celebrated the other night. We celebrated this one. If we're lucky enough to get another one, we're going to celebrate like crazy for that one," Few said. "This tournament needs to be celebrated, man."

The way Gonzaga is playing, it wouldn't be surprising if there were more celebrations to come — four of them, to be exact. Drew Timme scored a career-high 30 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, and the top-seeded Bulldogs beat No. 8 seed Oklahoma 87-71 on Monday in the second round.

A No. 1 seed, two No. 2s and two No. 3s have already been eliminated from this tournament. But Gonzaga (28-0) faces higher expectations as it tries to become the first undefeated champion since Indiana 45 years ago. In the 22nd season of his remarkably consistent career, Few is four wins away from his first national title.

"You gotta bring that fire because all it takes is one good game and you can be out," Timme said.

The Bulldogs easily dispatched Norfolk State in the first round, but the Sooners were the first power conference opponent for Gonzaga since it embarrassed Virginia in late December.

It didn't matter all that much. Oklahoma became the 25th straight team the Bulldogs beat by double digits — although the Sooners fought valiantly to keep it from becoming a blowout. Few still had his starters on the floor at the buzzer and screamed at star Jalen Suggs for committing an unnecessary foul with 1:05 left.

The Zags advanced to their sixth straight Sweet 16 and will next face Creighton in the West Region. Gonzaga has won the past two meetings with Creighton.

"We're not satisfied with this," Timme said. "This is not the end goal."

Austin Reaves scored 27 points for Oklahoma (16-11), and after trailing by 19 with 12 minutes left, the Sooners pulled within 77-68 on his 3-pointer with 2:37 left. It was the first 3 of the second half for Oklahoma and the first time the deficit was within single digits since late in the first half.

But Timme was perfect on four free throws sandwiched around a basket from Alondes Williams, and after an Oklahoma turnover, All-American Corey Kispert pushed the lead to 14 with his fourth 3-pointer.

"Thought we got a little better feel for the pace of things in the second half," Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger said. "Cut into it a little bit. Couldn't quite get back to make them too nervous."

Timme, sporting a handlebar mustache, was 9 of 12 shooting and 12 of 14 at the free-throw line.

Kispert finished with 16 points, as did Suggs, who took an awkward tumble on a flagrant foul by Oklahoma's Elijah Harkless in the closing seconds and had to be restrained by teammates. Joel Ayayi added 12 points, 10 in the first half.

Gonzaga closed the half on an 18-6 run to take control, doing it all with Kispert sitting after picking up his second foul. Ayayi, Timme and Suggs were the instigators offensively, but just as important was continuing to stymie the Sooners after Reaves re-entered the game.

The Sooners trailed 33-30 after Harkless scored, but Suggs answered with a 3 and the Bulldogs scored 13 of the final 17 points to take a 46-34 lead at the break.

"Our defense has been good, pretty dang good all year," Few said. "I think our offense has been at a historical level so it gets a lot of the pub."

Williams finished with 15 points for the Sooners and Jalen Hill added 11, but Oklahoma sorely could have used second-leading scorer De'Vion Harmon. He tested positive for COVID-19 upon arrival in Indianapolis.

Creighton 72, Ohio 58

Marcus Zegarowski scored 20 points to help Creighton beat Ohio, securing the program's first trip to the round of 16 in 47 years.

Damien Jefferson added 15 points for the fifth-seeded Bluejays (22-8). They had a cold opening few minutes before the offense—and Zegarowski in particular—got rolling with a strong performance that built a double-digit lead by halftime against an upstart trying to spring a second straight tournament upset.

The last time Creighton made it to the regional semifinals, it was 1974 and the tournament field had 25 teams.

Zegarowski finished 7 for 16 from the field with four 3-pointers.

Dwight Wilson III scored 12 points to lead Ohio (17-8), the Mid-American Conference champion. The 13th-seeded Bobcats opened the tournament by bouncing 2019 champion Virginia on Saturday night.

Oregon 95, Iowa 80

Chris Duarte scored 23 points and Oregon showed no signs of rust after a long layoff, beating No. 2 seed Iowa to reach the Sweet 16 for the fourth time in the past five NCAA Tournaments.

The seventh-seeded Ducks (21-6) were put in an unprecedented spot, advancing to the West Region's second round without playing a game. Virginia Commonwealth's multiple positive COVID-19 tests took care of that, leaving Oregon with a nine-day break since losing in the Pac-12 Tournament title game.

Oregon's offense hummed like it was fresh off the line once the ball went up.

The Ducks shot 56% and hit 11 3-pointers. LJ Figueroa made five 3s while scoring 21 points and Will Richardson added 19 points. Oregon will next face Pac-12 rival Southern California.

The Hawkeyes (22-9) fell one game short of the Sweet 16 for the fourth time under Fran McCaffrey. Luka Garza played like a two-time All-American, capping his stellar college career with 36 points and nine rebounds. Joe Wieskamp added 17 points.

Southern California 85, Kansas 51

Isaiah Mobley hit four 3-pointers and scored 17 points, All-American little brother Evan added 10 points and 13 rebounds, and sixth-seeded Southern California rolled past No. 3 seed Kansas — more than doubling the worst margin of defeat for the Jayhawks in 49 trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Isaiah White added 13 points and Tahj Eaddy had 12 for the Trojans (24-7), who kept the Pac-12′s charmed tourney going by reaching their fourth Sweet 16.

Coach Andy Enfield, who took No. 15 seed Florida Gulf Coast to the second weekend in 2013, had plenty of time to enjoy this one. The Trojans built a 29-21 lead, went on an 11-0 run to finish the first half, then coasted over the final 20 minutes.

USC finished 11 of 18 from beyond the arc, shot 57.1% from the field and nearly doubled up the Jayhawks on the glass.

Marcus Garrett had 15 points for Kansas (21-9), which had never lost an NCAA tourney game by more than 16 points.

EAST

Michigan 86, LSU 78

Top-seeded Michigan salvaged the Big Ten's best hope for NCAA Tournament glory, getting 21 points each from Chaundee Brown and Eli Brooks in a roller-coaster victory over talent-rich LSU.

In a game full of big runs, the Wolverines (22-4) used the biggest—14-1 over the decisive stretch midway through the second half—to pull away and preserve a glimmer of hope for a conference that has mostly tanked in Indianapolis.

Michigan moved on to its fourth straight Sweet 16, where it will play Florida State next weekend.

LSU's Cameron Thomas went from lighting up Michigan to barely being able to get a shot off. He finished with 30 points but it took 23 shots, and he went 3 for 10 in the second half. The Tigers (19-10) finished shooting 39% from the floor.

Florida State 71, Colorado 53

Anthony Polite scored a career-high 22 points and No. 4 seed Florida State pulled away in the second half to beat Colorado 71-53 and advance to the Sweet 16 for the third straight NCAA Tournament.

Polite had never scored more than 15 points in a game, but the junior made 8 of 12 shots, including 4 of 7 3-pointers. Florida State (18-6) will next face Michigan, which knocked out the Seminoles in the 2018 Elite Eight.

Florida State coach Leonard Hamilton — recovering from a ruptured Achilles tendon — again wore a boot as he walked the sideline. His Seminoles shot 53% from the field.

D'Shawn Schwartz scored 13 points for fifth-seeded Colorado (23-9), which shot 36% overall. McKinley Wright IV, Colorado's leading scorer for the season with more than 15 points per game, finished with 10 on 4-of-12 shooting. Colorado was seeking its first Sweet 16 trip since 1969.

UCLA 67, Abilene Christian 47

Johnny Juzang scored 17 points and 11th-seeded UCLA carefully brushed off pesky Abilene Christian to become the fifth team to go from the First Four to the Sweet 16.

The Bruins (20-9) will meet high-scoring Alabama in their first regional semifinal appearance since 2017—and their first with second-year coach Mick Cronin.

The Bruins were far from spectacular, but their size and athleticism combined with solid execution were more than enough to keep the 14th-seeded Wildcats from springing another upset.

Reserve Mahki Morris led Abilene Christian (24-5) with 22 points. Abilene Christian beat third-seeded Texas for the school's first Division I NCAA victory Saturday.

Alabama 96, Maryland 77

Jaden Shackelford and Alabama stuck with what got them to the NCAAs, torching Maryland with 3-point shooting in a second-round rout.

Shackelford scored 21 points and made five of Alabama's 16 3-pointers as the second-seeded Crimson Tide advanced to their first Sweet 16 since 2004. Nate Oats, the second-year coach who made Buffalo a must-watch team before moving up to the Southeastern Conference, will bring his high-energy style to a regional semifinal for the first time.

After trailing early, the nation's top 3-point shooting team quickly heated up to overwhelm the 10th-seeded Terrapins. Aaron Wiggins scored 27 points and Eric Ayala had 13 for Maryland (17-14), which was seeking its first Sweet 16 appearance since 2015 and 15th overall.

John Petty Jr. broke out of a slump to score 20 points with 4 3s for the Crimson Tide, and reserve Jahvon Quinerly added 14 points.

Patriots, Bucs among those making biggest waves so far

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

AP
New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, left, talks to head coach Bill Belichick as their team warms up before an NFL football game against the New York Jets in East Rutherford, N.J., in this Monday, Oct. 21, 2019, file photo.

Bill Belichick never was one to spend wildly in free agency. Watching Tom Brady win another Super Bowl in another city sure changed that.

The New England Patriots doled out $175 million in guarantees in the first 48 hours of free agency following a 7-9 stumble in 2020 that ended their two-decade dominance of the AFC.

The jaw-dropping spending spree netted tight ends Jonnu Smith and Hunter Henry and receivers Nelson Agholor and Kendrick Bourne for an offense that went from proficient to pitiful without Brady under center.

The Pats also traded for a left tackle and got Kyle Van Noy back in what amounted to a stunning about-face for a franchise whose fans relished poking fun at the big spenders trying, usually in vain, to catch up as the Patriots piled on the points and parades.

After watching Brady, at 43, throw TD passes like he was 23 again, then nonchalantly toss his seventh Lombardi Trophy over the Hillsborough River waters during the Buccaneers' celebration of their dismantling of Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs, Belichick—and his boss, Robert Kraft—had seen enough.

Following the signing, re-signing or acquisition of nearly two dozen players last week, Belichick issued the following statement:

"We are excited about the additions to our roster so far this year. Whether by trade, free agency or re-signings, the group brings a good mix of offense, defense and special teams. It was great to see them in the building, including some familiar faces, and we are all looking forward to continue building toward the upcoming season."

Drab and droll as usual, sure. But there's nothing common about the Patriots' offseason maneuvering. With the makeover continuing with 10 picks in next month's draft, the rest of the NFL is about to see just how much Belichick and Kraft hate losing.

BRADY'S BUNCH

The Buccaneers, who won the Super Bowl with every one of their 31 points coming from players who hadn't been on the team in 2019, are big winners this offseason, too.

First, Brady signed an extension, freeing up $19 million in salary cap space that allowed the Buccaneers to re-sign linebacker Lavonte David, tight end Rob Gronkowski and linebacker Shaq Barrett (four years, $72 million).

The Bucs also franchised wide receiver Chris Godwin, and keeping all these stars in the fold might very well keep Brady & Co. atop the NFL in 2021 no matter how much his former team spends to play catch-up.

PATON'S PLACE

While the old-timers in New England restocked their roster, newcomer GM George Paton got off to a fast start in his quest to rebuild the Denver Broncos, which will go a long way in showing his worthiness as John Elway's front office successor.

After serving a lifetime as Vikings executive Rick Spielman's right-hand man, Paton has quickly made his mark as the main man in Denver.

In addition to keeping Von Miller, Justin Simmons and Shelby Harris, Paton filled his biggest defensive pothole by signing free agent cornerbacks Ronald Darby and Kyle Fuller.

"Well, George became my best friend this week," Harris cracked after signing a three-year, $27 million contract a year after he had to settle for a one-year, $2.5 million deal.

The haul helped fans start to get over Paton's decision to let hometown hero Phillip Lindsay leave.

Paton, who also signed former Vikings backup running back Mike Boone, agreed to rescind the right-of-first refusal tender he'd placed on the fourth-year running back and fan favorite who grew up in Denver and went to the University of Colorado.

Lindsay quickly signed a one-year deal with Houston, which has turned over its roster even more so than New England has this month.

Some other teams that made an early splash are the New York Giants, Washington and Cleveland, which grabbed two of the Los Angeles Rams' secondary stalwarts in safety John Johnson and cornerback Troy Hill.

SPENDTHRIFTS

While the Patriots and Broncos had plenty of cap room available, most teams had their belts squeezing them pretty tight with the $182.5 million salary cap, an 8% reduction from 2020 because of the pandemic.

And some teams just didn't make the splash their fanbases expected in free agency.

■ Panthers general manager Scott Fitterer got off to an underwhelming start by signing guard Pat Elflein and tackle Cam Erving before luring wide receiver David Moore from Seattle and reuniting coach Matt Rhule with former Temple linebacker Haason Reddick.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	30	13	.698	—
Brooklyn	29	14	.674	1
Milwaukee	28	14	.667	1½
Miami	22	21	.512	8
Atlanta	22	21	.512	8
Charlotte	21	21	.500	8½
New York	21	22	.488	9
Boston	21	22	.488	9
Chicago	19	23	.452	10½
Indiana	19	23	.452	10½
Toronto	17	26	.395	13
Cleveland	16	27	.372	14
Washington	15	26	.366	14
Orlando	14	28	.333	15½
Detroit	12	30	.286	17½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	31	11	.738	—
Phoenix	28	13	.683	2½
L.A. Lakers	28	15	.651	3½
L.A. Clippers	28	16	.636	4
Denver	25	17	.595	6
Portland	25	17	.595	6
San Antonio	22	18	.550	8
Dallas	22	19	.537	8½
Golden State	22	21	.512	9½
Memphis	20	20	.500	10
Oklahoma City	19	24	.442	12½
New Orleans	18	24	.429	13
Sacramento	18	25	.419	13½
Houston	12	30	.286	19
Minnesota	10	33	.233	21½

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Beal, WAS	38	429	276	1219	32.1
Lillard, POR	41	386	296	1244	30.3
Embiid, PHI	31	293	304	928	29.9
Curry, GS	39	375	198	1130	29.0
Antetokounmpo, MIL	40	422	271	1161	29.0
Doncic, DAL	38	388	213	1101	29.0
LaVine, CHI	41	414	187	1159	28.3
Irving, BKN	31	334	114	871	28.1
Jokic, DEN	42	446	181	1138	27.1
Leonard, LAC	35	330	180	909	26.0
Young, ATL	40	304	321	1026	25.7
Williamson, NO	40	395	231	1028	25.7
James, LAL	41	388	168	1042	25.4
Harden, BKN	37	297	233	936	25.3
Mitchell, UTA	39	334	190	985	25.3
Booker, PHO	37	345	166	931	25.2
Tatum, BOS	37	337	148	923	24.9
Brown, BOS	39	362	139	961	24.6
Vucevic, ORL	42	417	89	1035	24.6
Sexton, CLE	37	328	174	896	24.2

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Allen, CLE	192	297	.646
Holmes, SAC	224	348	.644
Harrell, LAL	261	407	.641
Gobert, UTA	223	348	.641
Williamson, NO	395	638	.619
Plumlee, DET	166	273	.608
Ayton, PHO	255	422	.604
Young, CHI	208	349	.596
Kanter, POR	211	355	.594
Capela, ATL	228	395	.577

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Capela, ATL	36	179	331	510	14.2
Gobert, UTA	41	140	414	554	13.5
Valanciunas, MEM	34	126	285	411	12.1
Vucevic, ORL	42	83	413	496	11.8
Antetokounmpo, MIL	40	72	395	467	11.7
Embiid, PHI	31	67	288	355	11.5
Kanter, POR	42	173	308	481	11.5
Sabonis, IND	41	104	358	462	11.3
Jokic, DEN	42	121	349	470	11.2
Randle, NY	43	65	408	473	11.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Harden, BKN	37	410	11.1
Westbrook, WAS	34	348	10.2
Young, ATL	40	376	9.4
Doncic, DAL	38	349	9.2
Paul, PHO	40	351	8.8
Jokic, DEN	42	361	8.6
Green, GS	37	313	8.5
James, LAL	41	323	7.9
Simmons, PHI	35	268	7.7
Lillard, POR	41	313	7.6

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan spends billions on technology for absent Olympic fans

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's top telecommunications company is getting 7.3 billion yen—about $67 million—in taxpayer money to design mobile tracking software to curb the spread of coronavirus infections during the Tokyo Olympics.

There's one catch: Few Olympic fans from abroad will be around to use it.

Tokyo Olympic organizers and the IOC on Saturday announced a ban on fans from abroad attending the the games, which open on July 23.

NTT Communications Corp., a group company of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. and a domestic sponsor of the Tokyo Games, heads the consortium developing the app in multiple languages that is set for release in June.

Domestic sponsors have contributed a record of $3.5 billion to the local organizing committee, a total about three times larger than any previous Olympics. Contributions have been driven by giant marketing company Dentsu Inc., the official marketing partner of the Tokyo Olympics.

AP
In this Feb. 23, 2021, file photo, a child wearing a protective mask to help curb the spread of the coronavirus runs in front of the logos of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Like other skeptics, opposition lawmaker Kanako Otsuji has said the app is a waste of money.

"When there will likely be no spectators, is this the time to be designing an app for fans? The Japanese government has failed over and over in digital innovation, but it's going to have success with this new app?" she said on her YouTube channel last month.

Users are to download the app in their cell phones so their whereabouts can be monitored with satellite technology.

In theory, it tracks infections. But it all must be done in good faith and is effective only if people use it honestly and diligently to record their health conditions and warn others of outbreaks.

The NTT app costs nearly 20 times as much as an earlier glitch-plagued tracking app, called Cocoa, for "COVID-19 Contact Confirming Application," offered free to the Japanese public last year.

Japan now restricts people from entering the country because of the coronavirus pandemic, except for some essential travel and returning citizens.

NTT Communications declined comment, referring queries to the government.

Tokyo-based NTT, founded in 1952, has boasted of close ties with the Japanese government. It's now embroiled in a sprawling corruption scandal centered around lavishing entertainment on ministry bureaucrats that oversee telecommunications.

TORRES

From Page 20

Organizing Committee by the CNMI Department of Finance within the month of April.

According Marco Peter, Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee chairman, the committee is excited and glad about the support shown by the administration on the inclusion of three more events.

"It's been a long time but we're excited and glad. We're sending out the original letter from the administration that we will be doing the Games," he said.

However, Peter said that the commitment still doesn't guarantee that the CNMI will be allowed to host the additional three events, but a commitment letter from the both the governor and committee shows the Mini Games council how serious the CNMI is about these events.

"We're excited and the athletes are excited. This is the first ever [event] of this capacity and we cannot fail. It is our time to showcase our islands, our culture and that's just as big as the Games," he said.

Andrew Minogue, Pacific Games Counsil chief executive officer, who attended the committee meeting virtually, said he is pleased with the CNMI government's commitment to the Games.

Currently, athletics, baseball, badminton, beach volleyball, golf, and triathlon are the six sports that will officially be played in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games.

Elgin Baylor, Lakers great and aerialist pioneer, dies at 86

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Timme sparkles, Gonzaga rolls past Oklahoma into Sweet 16

PAGE 18

Torres commits $4M to Mini Games

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
The Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee holds a meeting to discuss the additional funding of $1 million Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his administration is giving to the staging of the 2022 Pacific Mini Games at the Francisco C. Ada Gymnasium conference room yesterday.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has committed to appropriating an additional $1 million on top of the $3 million he originally committed to the staging of the 2022 Pacific Mini Games on Saipan.

According to a letter from Torres, with the inclusion of three more events—tennis, weightlifting, and Va'a (outrigger)—the CNMI certifies a commitment of $4 million to the 2022 Pacific Mini Games Committee for the event's facilitation.

Initially, the Mini Games was scaled down to just six events and the proposed budget was trimmed from $8 million to $3 million. With the inclusions of three new sports to the events calendar, the Mini Games will now feature nine events bumping the needed funding up to $4 million.

"It is a great honor to host the 2022 Pacific Mini Games. This wonderful demonstration of collaboration and partnership is truly an event worthy of celebration. As we emerge from this crisis, this Games, and the ability of sport to bring people together, is a welcome sign of normalcy and a celebration of our resilience and the cultural ties that bind us," he said.

Initial payment in preparation of the events will be remitted to the Pacific Mini Games 2022

See TORRES on Page 19

NMI Women's Run registration still on

Registration for the NMI Women's Run is still ongoing.

The 10-kilometer actual race exclusive for women's will be held this Saturday at the American Memorial Park at the Hyatt Regency Saipan side. The race will start at 6am and female runners can participate in the 10K run/walk individually or on teams and the winning team will be able to donate all race proceeds to a CNMI Charity of their choice. Registration can be made through https://raceroster.com/events/2021/45389/nmi-10km-womens-run.

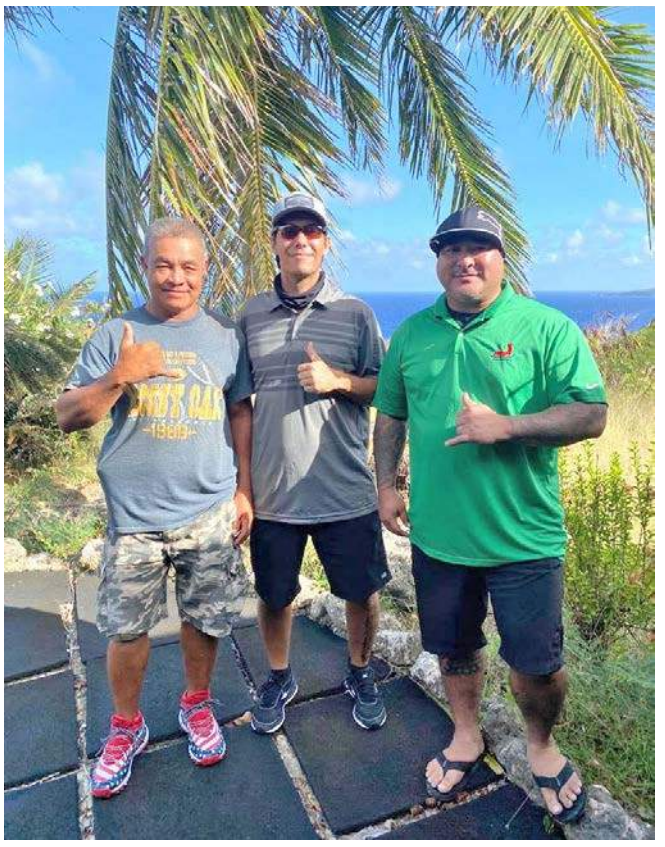
If you are a male or just can't make that race date and time, you can still enter in the virtual categories as well: 5K and 10K solo and 5K team divisions. Participants are invited to complete their chosen distance anytime during the month of March and upload the results in the Race Roster portal.

Northern Marianas Athletics is organizing the event in celebration of the 2021 Women's History Month and inviting everyone to heed the International Women's Day call to #ChooseToChallenge by coming out during the Month of March, running a distance of their choice and helping to honor women around the world. ***(NMA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Mariana Athletics is inviting runners to participate in the NMI Women's Run this Saturday.

Tenorio crowned March Ace

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Peter "Dung" Tenorio, center, has been named the Marianas Golf Association's March Ace.

Peter "Dung" Tenorio was named the Marianas Golf Association's March Ace of the Month last March 13 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Tenorio and Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho initially tied for the lowest net score of the day with a 67, but Tenorio edged out Camacho on a scorecard playoff to bag the March monthly title.

Coming in at a close third place was Jerome "Chow" Sablan with a net score of 69.

Tenorio conquered a total of 25 participants and one guest who joined the monthly ace tournament.

Meanwhile, the closest to the pin winners were J.J. Atalig who got closest to the pin in hole No. 6 and No. 15, Camacho in hole No. 12, and Gerald Guerrero in hole No. 8.

In addition, MGA also welcomed their newest members, Freddy Cataluna and William Retardo.

MGA's golf season runs from May 2020 through April 2021 which means there is only one Ace spot left before the start of the 2021-2022 season.

MGA's April Ace and first day of the Ace of Aces tournament is scheduled for April 17 at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The second day of the Ace of Aces tournament will be on May. The Ace of Aces format is a two-round tournament where MGA combines the score.

MGA holds its monthly aces once a month circulating between the four current golf courses and is inviting interested golfers to join the MGA club.

All interested participants may reach out to a current MGA member for details. The annual fee for new members is $40 and returning members is $30. The one-time fee includes an MGA polo shirt and hat.